



*Carefree
Cambridge
children*

173.10

Cambridge CHILDREN Scrapbook

See also c.36.5 : Schools, c.37.9 : Youth Clubs

1897 05 01

May Day is the name of a holiday that calls up all sorts of pretty rustic associations. In Cambridge the first day of the merry month is a most unromantic reality. A few small children straggle about the streets with more or less pretentious garlands and a Jack-in-the-Green may occasionally be caught sight of, but beyond this May Day in Cambridge is a memory of the past. In connection with Hobson-street chapel there was a "May morning breakfast" at which there was a large attendance. The room was decorated with flowers and the gathering was a most enjoyable one.

1897 06 04

The Queen Victoria's Jubilee Free Dinner Committee, having placed their fund for feeding the aged on a satisfactory footing, have determined to give a free tea to the children of Cambridge between the ages of seven and 14. It is fitting that the children of the town, the inheritors of the wonderful empire that has been built up and its future guardians, should have indelibly impressed on their minds the greatest landmark in modern English history – Editorial

1897 06 25

It is a matter of satisfaction that the subscriptions which have been received by the Jubilee Dinner Committee were sufficient to give a tea to some 4,000 school children of Cambridge between the ages of seven and 12. A mug and plate was provided for each child, and the plates when they sat down were furnished with bread and butter and two lumps of cake. Once in the enclosure they were each presented with a medal commemorating the Jubilee. Until tea commenced the enclosure was a perfect babel with the children's' chatter. Far more children than expected came, and some of the school teachers had written their own tickets. Not a few of the children attending were obviously either over or under the age which had been decided. All were soon provided for and the committee were able to keep replenishing the tables. As they finished tea the children left the tables, and, shouting, romped

and danced to the band's music. The sight was enough to set the milk of human kindness surging through the heart of the most misguided misanthrope

1897 08 20

Considering the extent to which the sale of "hokey", or ice-cream, is carried on in Cambridge, and the revelations that have been made in connection with the industry in other towns it is justified in calling the attention of the Town Council to the matter. The stuff may or may not be manufactured in "the dirtiest slums of Cambridge" as was asserted but considering the number of children of all classes who indulge in the "luxury" we hope the Sanitary Committee will deal with it in something more than a perfunctory manner. A good many parents would like to know a little more about the article which their children devour in such large quantities during the summer.

1897 12 13

A tailor of Cherry Hinton had a sad tale to relate to the Borough Coroner at the inquest held on the body of his five-year-old son. On the evening of 26th November he heard the child screaming and found him sitting on his aunt's knee with one of his fingers crushed. The child had managed to put his finger in between the rollers of the mangle and one finger was badly crushed. She had to reverse the rollers to get it out. The boy was treated at hospital but then showed signs of tetanus, grew rapidly worse and died.

1898 02 02

A report to Cambridge Guardians showed that in some cases foster parents had neglected their duty towards the children entrusted to their care, especially in regard to not keeping them clean, not mending or renewing their clothes or not providing them with proper sleeping rooms. Such neglect could only be discovered by frequent visits made to the home and members of the Ladies' Boarding-Out Committee had no been instructed in those methods and there was good reason for concluding that no serious neglect of duty on the part of foster parents would in future remain undetected

1898 03 17

At Cambridge town council Mr Negus proposed that they should make inquiries as to suitable sites for a recreation ground in Romsey Town. He was anxious that this should be done before the land was all cut up into small plots, a little kindness and consideration to Romsey would tend to do away with any friction which might have existed in the past. Mr Swann seconded. If the ground was not so much wanted now, it would be in the future, as the land was rapidly bought up. Now was the time the matter should be dealt with for the benefit of future generations. Mr Ward supported. There were many sites they might have, some expensive and some less so, but in a few years the price would increase. When they saw the swarms of children turned out there, and with no playground except in the dangerous streets, he thought they would decide that they could with perfect safety refer it to the Committee.

1898 04 13

Mr Dixon said that Mill Road cemetery was always locked up on Sundays, because, if not, swarms of little children rampaged about over the graves; and while he was conducting a funeral it was very annoying to have some little urchins come up and say, "Oh, my! Ain't that a little coffin!" The children jumped about over the graves, while labourers going to work made the cemetery a thoroughfare. The matter was giving the committee a great deal of trouble.

1898 06 01

The red tape has all but unrolled, and the Chesterton playground is to be redeemed. In November the school children, who number some 500, and other children, will once more be allowed to sport on the "Old Town Close". A meeting to acquaint the people of Chesterton with the present condition of affairs in the matter was held last night. The chairman who was received with tumultuous stamping, said they had done their best to bring the matter to a crisis as quickly as possible and had made up their minds that they would make a forcible entry into the ground, would make a gap in the fence at

each end, and open the field for cricket or football. But a benefactor had stepped in and offered to buy the land and give it back to the villagers

1898 06 21

Inspector Jordan of the N.S.P.C.C. said he visited a house at Portland Place Cambridge. There he saw six children ranging in age from 12 years down to six months. The children appeared to the very neglected, were filthy dirty, and the three-year-old child had only one garment on although he was lying in front of the fire, suffering from a very bad cold. Each child seemed to have but one ragged garment. The mother was apparently sober, but as dirty and ragged as the children. She was feeding the baby on bread and cold water and said she had no milk. The living room was filthy, and the other room contained one "truckle" bedstead in a loathsome condition. Upstairs there was no furniture. On the table there was a loaf of bread - that was all.

1898 08 17

Castle End children case, p2

1898 08 31

Beer to children, p2

1898 09 06

Children & drink, p4

1898 10 27

Cambridge guardians considered the question of removing children from the workhouse and placing them in one or more cottage homes. There was one family in the workhouse who had lived there almost the whole of their lives. They were firmly convinced that the workhouse was not the best place to keep children. One difficulty was in getting good foster mothers. But Mr Campkin said he knew of many instances where boys and girls went out into the world and took responsible situations which they filled with great credit to themselves. If they arranged for placing these children out at the expense of the ratepayers he failed to see how in after life there could be any practical difference with regard to the children

1899 01 05

Cambridge is by no means only place where little boys openly indulge in cigarette smoking. For youngsters this premature smoking is undoubtedly harmful. Up to the age of 21 every person should be a total abstainer from tobacco. Nevertheless while smoking by children is greatly to be deprecated there are not many that would go to the length of proposing that a by-law should be passed prohibiting smoking in the streets by children under 13. It is too late in the day: if his parents and teachers cannot cure him of the habit, it is to be feared that the task must be given as hopeless

1899 03 24

A good deal of amusement was caused at the Cambridge police court when a child whose head could only just be seen above the dock was charged with wilfully damaging a window at Comet-yard. It was said she threw a snowball and it hit the window, cracking it right across. Witness cautioned her and she then threw 12 others, as fast as she could. He spoke to her mother who used bad language, tried to clutch at his whiskers and threatened to pull them out. Then she got a shovel of snow and threw it over him. & 25th p2

1899 05 11

A traction engine has an irresistible attraction for children, who go as near as they dare to inspect the mechanism by which it is driven. Some children were playing on the Cherry Hinton road when an engine, drum, and elevator passed by. One of them, Emily Jaggard, nine years of age, ventured too near and was knocked down by the elevator, the wheel of which passed over her foot. The girl was at once conveyed to hospital where it was found that the left ankle was fractured and the right ankle severely bruised

1900

1900 05 21

Sir – I venture to utter a word of protest against the management of the Mafeking rejoicings. I say nothing about the undergraduate but the manner in which children of 15 and under were tacitly allowed to indulge in drunkenness and other unnameable debauchery ought to bring a blush to every Cambridge citizen. Could not some of the men who were strutting in and out of the Corn Exchange with white ribbons on their arms have been stationed on Midsummer Common to send the incapable children home – C.R. Crookes, Cambridge Boys' Brigade

1900 10 25

An epidemic of disease has broken out in Cambridge which is of such serious importance as regards the public health that we should not be discharging a duty we owe to our readers if we did not draw attention to it, notwithstanding the reticence of the medical authority, which to say the least is inexplicable. The Medical Officer of Health has absolutely declined to take the press into his confidence. That diphtheria is prevalent is beyond dispute, nor is it confined to Cambridge for rumour is that deaths have occurred at Chesterton. The death of certain children attending Park Street mixed infants school first brought the matter under the attention of the local medical authorities. Several deaths have taken place which are directly attributed to the disease.

1900 11 07

Lord John Sanger's circus is paying its annual visit to Cambridge. The spacious marquee is erected on Midsummer Common. This afternoon's performance was somewhat sparsely patronised. The absence of children was especially noticeable. This was probably due to a warning issued by the medical authorities to parents that they would "incur considerable danger if they were allowed to attend the performances" in view of the prevalence of diphtheria. The performance will be repeated this evening when a football match between a "centre-forward" elephant and a Cambridge footballer will be played

1900 11 22

The Cambridge Coroner opened an enquiry at the Blackbirds public house, East Road, Cambridge into the circumstances of the death of an East Road shopkeeper and her three children who were found lying on the bed in their front upstairs room with their throats cut. She had appeared perfectly sane and was reported not to have financial problems but was very much troubled about her husband leaving her. She was very fond of her children and was a good mother. A lodger said he had come downstairs but found no breakfast ready. He had knocked on her door and got no answer. He had looked into the room, seen the bodies and sent for the police.

1901 01 01

The Cambridge Medical Officer of Health reported on the recent outbreak of diphtheria. He had inspected Park Street School and could find no cause for complaint except as to the odours arising from a cesspool. Alderman Dalton said the present school might be perfectly healthy as workshops, or a Sunday School or an evening institute. There was a great difference between children assembling for a couple of hours in one day of the week and living in the place the whole of their time. The question should be decided whether the school should be carried on under the present unsatisfactory conditions or whether new buildings should be erected.

1901 02 28

Mr J. Buckenham, surgeon, public vaccinator for Cambridge, said he visited a house in Cockburn Street and offered to vaccinate the child, but the mother declined to allow him to do so. Her husband had a brother who died through vaccination and she was strongly against it. She was fined 10s.

1901 05 13

While playing about on East Road, Cambridge, a two-year-old child was knocked down by a tram horse and run over by the vehicles, sustaining such injuries that she succumbed shortly after. The tram driver said that when he first saw the child she was about a yard from his tram. He applied his brake immediately but it was impossible to stop the heavy car before reaching her. The wheel went over her thigh and she was fearfully mangled about her limbs and lower body

1901 06 22

Midsummer Fair, the delight of children and the pleasure of not a few adults was formally opened. On reaching an open space councillors in their carriages commenced throwing the coppers. A spirit of mischief seemed to be present in the first carriage for the coins fell thickest in close proximity to the crockery-ware stalls, one or two even finding a resting place amongst plates. The children pushed and hustled with such energy that a few of the articles were damaged, much to the disgust of the proprietor

1901 07 04

Cambridge Guardians agreed that a child who had expressed a wish to learn the trade of a carpenter should be boarded out for a year. If he was given a good trade there was very small likelihood he would come to the House again; if they made him an agricultural labourer he would probably be on the books again in later life. Mr Cook opposed, remarking it was likely to be an incentive to unscrupulous parents to purposely desert their children. Some Guardians seemed to think that because a boy was born in the gutter he should be kept there. (Uproar)

1902 04 30

William Edwards of the Rock Estate, Cherry Hinton, applied for an exemption certificate from vaccination for his child, William. He had an exemption before and was more firmly convinced that vaccination was not required. His first child died through it and, if small pox broke out at Cherry Hinton, he would not, unless forced by law, consent to his child being vaccinated. If there were a loophole of escape from it he would not have the child done, if it cost him every stick of furniture he had got. The exemption was granted.

1902 09 05

Yesterday young Cambridge celebrated the coronation of King Edward VII. Half of Parker's Piece was covered with twelve tents and soon the happy throng was taking tea to the strains of music furnished by the Cambridge Police Band. Over 800 gallons of tea were brewed, roughly 6,400 pints. For 6,000 children the quantity was abundant. The Mayor distributed commemorative medals which will doubtless remain treasured possessions for many a year. The centre tent contained a large number of people who were present at Queen Victoria's Coronation

1902 09 06

The Mayor of Cambridge, Alderman Kett made a tour of sixteen schools for the purpose of distributing Coronation medals to the infant scholars. It had been suggested that they should also be given a tea in the tents on Parker's Piece but it was felt that little mites of four could hardly be expected to walk to and from the Piece and it was more advisable to provide tea for them at the various schoolrooms. At East Road school tea had to be provided for 250 infants and the cutting up of the large quantity of bread and cake entailed several hours for work for the teachers.

1902 11 14

At Cambridge court Mr Redfern, director of the New Theatre, renewed application for licences to allow two children, aged 10 and nine, to perform at the theatre with Mr Edward Terry's company. The children's performance was not an acrobatic one; they simply came on and had some lines to repeat. They were under the watchful eye of a governess and their parents were travelling with the company which was on tour and acting every night. It was not unusual for the Government inspector to run down from Norwich to visit theatres in which children were acting and had always been satisfied.

1903 03 23

A two-year-old baby boy was found on a seat on the Cambridge Railway Station platform. Nobody could be found to claim the youngster who was contentedly munching a bun and entirely oblivious to his surroundings. He was fairly well dressed but had no parcel containing extra clothes or anything that could lead to his identification. The Great Northern stationmaster's wife (Mrs Fenn) took charge of the little fellow and he was subsequently given into the charge of the police and removed to the Workhouse to await identification

1903 06 03

The new municipal cemetery, which Cambridge Corporation has prepared on Newmarket Road, was opened for interments. In anticipation of the time when the general public will regard burial more from a sanitary than from a sentimental point of view, a part of the ground adjoining Ditton Lane has been reserved for the erection of a crematorium. The first interment was a child named Alfred Willet Whitmore; the coffin was borne by six young ladies and Mr Ellis Merry was the undertaker

1903 07 11

Two little children surreptitiously obtained some matches and amused themselves with creating miniature fires with shavings in a shed at the rear of 57, Ainsworth Street, Cambridge, occupied by Mr John Horobin, sweet manufacturer. The woodwork of the shed became ignited and there was every prospect of the fire spreading to neighbouring buildings. The Central Fire Station was communicated with through the Norfolk Street fire alarm and P.C. Savage promptly ran out the Hooper Street reel but there was no chance of saving the shed

1903 07 16

Dr Dalton has confirmed that the dangerous epidemic prevalent in Cambridge is smallpox and there have been no less than three deaths from the disease. Nobody who has been vaccinated recently had it but two unvaccinated children had the disease badly. He must insist absolutely on isolation of every case, however mild. He had ordered one tent which held 15 people – tents were very suitable at this time of year – and must order sufficient to provide for every case which required isolation

1903 11 11

Under Government regulations no child can be boarded out with foster-parents of different religious denominations to that in which the child is registered. At Cherry Hinton a girl had been fostered with a couple who took very great interest in her. At the time they took her the wife was undoubtedly Church of England and the husband went nowhere. Since then he had started going to the Baptist Chapel and his wife felt it her duty to go with him and take the child. Now the Ladies Boarding-Out Committee had threatened to take the child away from them. Being Government servants they must obey the rules and regulations laid down for their guidance.

1903 12 02

If the scene that attended the opening of the children's reading room at the Mill Road branch of the Cambridge Free Library can be relied upon the experiment ought to be attended with the happiest results. Within a few minutes of opening it was fully occupied by boys and girls and the demand for admittance was in excess of expectations with a large number waiting patiently outside until room could be made for them. Some had a long wait as once the children had settled down to the store of attractive books and pictures provided the employment became completely absorbing. Their clean faces and hands and well-brushed hair helped form a charming sight which their complete quietness and good behaviour rendered all the more attractive.

1903 12 03

Mill Road library opened a reading room for the exclusive benefit of children. Apart from the love of books and pictures likely to be instilled into the youthful mind there are habits of cleanliness, order & discipline. Dirty hands and faces are not permitted to enter and bad behaviour is punished by immediate expulsion. The children will be well looked after and tired mothers and weary fathers can rest with easy minds knowing their offspring are enjoying themselves without injuring either their bodies or their morals.

1904 02 01

The recent decision to reduce the number of days on which the Cambridge Sanatorium can be visited from two a week to one a month has effected a change to which the patients' parent are not becoming easily reconciled. On Sunday afternoon several made the journey hoping to see their children through the windows. But all the blinds had been drawn and the children instructed not to look out. The parents waited for half an hour in the rain and then all but one departed. One man, who had not seen his son for five weeks, waited in an adjoining field. His vigil was rewarded when one of the blinds was raised and a timid little face peeped out and waved. The father went away somewhat gladdened at having seen his child in the distance.

1904 11 24

Since September 14 cases of diphtheria have been diagnosed among Cambridge school children, 11 of whom have been removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Swabs have been taken from their classmates and any harbouring the diphtheria bacillus are removed to the Isolation Home. Three cases have proved fatal. One was of a child who died through medical advice not having been sought in time. It had been ill for four days before a doctor was called in. Steps were taken to remove the patient to the Hospital as quickly as possible but when the conveyance arrived at the house death had taken place only a few minutes earlier

1904 12 07 c

The anticipation of the probability of distress in Cambridge some weeks ago, before the wintry weather came to give a keener edge to hunger and a more painful and sharp reminder to the poor of their inadequate resources in food and clothing, was widely discussed but was felt to be unduly magnified. The Town Council vetoed a proposal to supply aid to the unemployed. But Miss Wilson of the Nursing Institution on Newmarket Road began to undertake the provision of free dinners to which the children of poor parents resort for their midday meal of soup and bread. "We give the children as much as ever they can hold", she said. Boys in pitifully ragged garments and decrepit old women and little girls with starvation all too plainly written on their features come with jugs to take soup home to those unable through illness or lack of clothing to come themselves

1904 12 31

For some time Miss Wilson and her hard-working band of ladies have been daily allaying the pangs of hunger in hundreds of little children and their mothers in the Newmarket Road area of Cambridge by giving them free dinners. Now their effort is brought to an end. Not only are the financial resources exhausted but the staff have physically worked themselves out. But on the very day that these free meals cease the CDN Shilling Fund commences its distribution of tickets for food, fuel and clothing, continuing the work they have been compelled to give up. Subscriptions continue to come steadily in with cheques from Messrs Starr and Rignall photographers, Moore and Company tobacconists and the Cambridge Waterworks Company

1905 06 27

Sir – is it not about time that the annual Bacchanalian orgy known as Midsummer Fair was abolished? On Saturday night men, women and even children intoxicated by drink were behaving like maniacs. There were 14 tents for the supply of intoxicating liquors whilst behaviour in the dancing tents is indescribable. In one booth I saw two tiny mites whose mothers had given them too much to drink, for they were quite intoxicated and outside another I saw five perambulators standing unattended –
A.J.L.B. 05 06 27a & b

1905 12 08

12-yearold burglar – 05 12 08

1906 03 15

A difference of opinion has arisen between parents of children and the Managers of the Morley Memorial Schools over the practice of opening afternoon school at 1.45 instead of two o'clock. One

mothers say it is highly inconvenient: "My husband comes home to dinner at ten minutes past one; we sit down to eat five minutes later and my children have to 'bolt' their dinner and rush straight off to be at school by twenty to two. I'm sure it does them no good." But the managers say parents had asked for the change. 06 03 15 & 15a

1906 08 04

Gardeners beware: your neat little flower patches are in danger from apparently innocent young children. They will make flattering comments upon your show of roses, geraniums and other blooms but when no one is about they will quickly open the garden gate and before you realise it, the best of your blooms are torn off. Sometimes the flowers are within reach of a small hand thrust through the railings and they will mysteriously disappear. 06 08 04

1906 08 23

A woman of about 30 years of age journeyed to Cambridge to meet the man who was the author of her 'trouble'. While she was in the train alone the child was born but on arrival at the station she behaved with such extraordinary circumspection that none of the railway officials suspected anything unusual had occurred. Carrying a bundle wrapped in underlinen under her arm, this extraordinary woman walked the length of the platform, hailed a cab and asked to be driven to the Workhouse. There her strength gave way and she swooned on the floor with the new-born babe beside her. They are both doing well. 06 08 23

1906 12 12

The condition of Eden Street Higher Grade School gave cause for concern. The small infants room was encumbered with a huge gallery and another received practically no light. It had no playground and there could be few places in which so many children were crowded together on such a small site. Only because the staff was very efficient and the children very teachable did instruction meet with the success to which reports testified. 06 12 12 & a

1907 01 24

Mr G.A. Mackenzie of Ross Street has organised services for deaf and dumb children at Tracey Memorial Hall. They have been attended by nearly 30 people, many of whom have received excellent training in institutions and some have already been confirmed. He was formerly Diocesan Missioner at Oxford and secretary of the Liverpool Deaf and Dumb Association. 07 01 24a

1907 05 16

Not one Cambridge boy in 30 learns a trade; parents grasp at a few shillings as early as possible. Some were taken up by printers and the University offices but the most promising work was in the motor and cycle industry. One eleven-year old worked 28 hours a week outside school hours cleaning stables during the dinner hour, all Saturday and three hours on Sunday. Another, aged 14, put in 32 hours a week selling papers. They spent the money on food and cigarettes. 07 05 16 & a

1908 02 22

Lieut.-General R.S. Baden-Powell, the famous defender of Mafeking, propounded his 'fad' – peace scouting for boys as a means of instruction in good citizenship – before a large audience at the Perse School Hall. The Vice Chancellor gave apologies from the Bishop of Ely and various college Masters, all of whom were most heartily in sympathy with the objects of the meeting. 08 02 22

1908 03 06

Following Lieut.-General Baden-Powell's recent visit, a meeting was held to consider forming a branch of the scheme of boy-scouts, perhaps as a development of the present Boys' Brigade. But Capt Norton-Fagge thought there were a large number of boys not eligible for the Boys' or Church Lads' Brigades who would be just the lads for this scheme. A number of men might take three boys each and teach them a few of the elementary principles. 08 03 06c

1908 03 12

In the St Matthew's area of Cambridge are many public houses and the poverty of small homes threw the young people into the streets in search of amusement. There were thirteen different buildings in which social evenings and gymnastic clubs were continually held throughout the week. But some young men find infinitely more pleasure in racing through the streets and hooliganism. A boys' club at the Barnwell Theatre Mission or the Coffee Tavern on Newmarket Road would be worth trying. 08 03 12b & c

1908 03 19

At Cambridge Dental Institute school children are treated free of cost. It is the only such clinic in the country and more important than Cambridge people realise. Now Dr George Cunningham has been honoured by the Odontological Society of France. 08 03 19b & 19

1908 04 16

Newmarket Road cemetery was too expensive, ratepayers claimed. The land had cost four times what adjacent ground had fetched, the walls were crumbling and the cottage built of the poorest bricks so the papers hung in strips inside. There were four greenhouses and a kind of chapel where part of the service was held – all of which had to be heated. A number of beds had been planted with bulbs and expensive flowers whereas herbaceous plants would do quite well. A number of people visited on a Sunday bringing children who played in the open space, but it should not be a recreation ground. 08 04 16

1908 04 30

Cambridge Poor Law children policy – 08 04 30 & a

1908 06 05

To the casual observer there seems a minimum of child labour in Cambridge so it is something of a shock to learn that 266 are engaged in some occupation out of school hours. Now no child may be employed as a lather boy in any barber's shop, nor in connection with the sale of intoxicating liquor on licensed premises, nor in billiard or bagatelle marking, nor in the kitchen of any hotel or refreshment room. Badges must be worn by those engaged in street trading for which a deposit of threepence will be charged, councillors decided. CWN 08 06 05 p7

1908 08 21

A bricklayer from Hobart Road, Cambridge, was charged with deserting his wife. There were 13 children of the marriage alive, seven being under 16. His home had been ruined by drink: he had to walk the streets to keep out of the way of his wife's tongue and her drunkenness. He asked for custody of the children: he was willing to support them but would rather go to gaol than allow his wife to handle the money he had to work hard for and spend it in drink. CWN 08 08 21 p5

1908 09 04

See the children assemble in the great hall at the new Milton Road School. From the classrooms come files of boys and girls, not in perfect military style but in very fair order awaiting an instruction that playtime has arrived. The word given, the boys swing out of one door, the girls out at another and the paved playgrounds, separated by an iron partition, resound with merriment. Boys learn woodwork under Mr Holt and the girls commence cookery instruction under Mrs Walker of Cheveley. CWN 08 09 04 p5

1908 09 11

During the harvest considerable depredations have been made in Cherry Hinton fields by parties of boys and girls who, under the guise of 'gleaners', have stolen a large quantity of beans. People should not buy beans from them. Gleaning was confined to the villagers who were allowed into the fields after a certain time but the children of Cambridge had no such rights; 22 were known to have been involved in the thefts. CWN 08 09 11 p3

1909 05 07

Prince Henry of Battenberg opened a sale of work in aid of the funds for providing a properly-equipped Children's Ward at Addenbrooke's Hospital. There has been one in the past but some years ago it was done away with as the Hospital's income was not sufficient. Children have not been entirely neglected: urgent cases have been taken in but the staff felt handicapped without a bright, sunny ward where the injured and diseased little ones might be given a fair chance of recovery. 09 05 07 p5

1909 09 03

Dr George Cunningham told an International Congress in Berlin of the work of the Cambridge School Dental Clinic, the only one of its kind in England. Mr Sedley Taylor of Trinity College had been shocked at the state of children's teeth and funded a dentist to investigate. He found the condition of their temporary teeth was so bad that proper treatment was impossible. The best thing was to concentrate exclusively on permanent teeth which appear after the sixth year. The results were so convincing that the Town Council decided to fund the clinic. CEN 09 09 03

1909 12 24

People out shopping in Cambridge witness the curious site of 'six foot two' policeman walking toward the Police Station with a diminutive child toddling along by his side. Of course the child was lost, but he seemed utterly unconcerned. This was not the first time this little mite had landed safe in the hands of a policeman. He had been often brought into the town by older boys who ultimately left him to his own devices. Boys will be boys but this is a dangerous game to play. 09 12 24

1910

1910 01 07

A novel and very popular experiment has just been tried in a Cambridge elementary school. The infants have been receiving direction in the gentle art of plum pudding making and just before Christmas were invited to bring their small coins towards buying the ingredients for the manufacture of some real puddings 'all on their own'. Six were made and a grand feast was held. The children arrived with clean faces and hands and provided with spoons and plates or pieces of clean paper. Then amid tremendous excitement the steaming hot puddings were dished up, decorated and served round the impatient youngsters who speedily put every scrap out of sight. CWN 10 01 07h

1910 01 14

Boarding out of pauper children, workhouse – 10 01 14f & g

1910 02 04

Luke Hosegood, the Master, told Guardians there were 26 children in Cambridge workhouse. A large number of men had brought in their wives and families simply because they had been evicted from their houses as the result of slum clearance. There were several cases from Cambridge Place and a number from Castle End and if they went in at this rate all Castle End would be pauperised soon. It was getting a very serious matter. 10 02 04g

1910 03 04

It was incredible to hear of the conditions that existed in Barnwell, said the Rev Gwinn. There was one road which in winter was almost knee-deep in mud. The children could not step from their doors without going ankle-deep and always went to school wet-footed. Five children in that street had been taken away with scarlet fever recently, partly owing to the sanitary arrangements and partly due to the stuff that was thrown out into the road. There was another street of 11 houses – or rather hovels – containing only two rooms apiece. In one of these lived seven people CWN 10 03 04f & g & h

1910 06 10

Owing to the rapid increase of the Boy Scout movement in Cambridge a meeting was held at the Perse School to inaugurate a Boy Scouts Association. It will nominate suitable persons to act as scoutmasters, register troops and patrols, encourage the movement and work in co-operation with

other boys' organisations. The Chief Scout, Sir Robert Baden-Powell will be invited to inspect the Cambridge scouts in the autumn. 10 06 10

1910 08 19

Christ's Pieces affords a welcome glimpse of colour to hundreds of workers as they pass from one side of Cambridge to the other and numerous people in their spare time spend many a pleasant half-hour there. To tired mothers it is a boon unspeakable for their children can be allowed to run about at will, free from the imminent deadly peril of the recklessly-ridden bicycle and the death-dealing motor. The grass is as smooth as a tennis lawn, the trees and shrubs beautifully green and the garden plots a delight to the eye thanks to Mr Nunn who has been keeper of the Pieces for nearly 30 years. 10 08 19

1911 03 10

Measles is very widely prevalent in Cambridge just now, largely due to the fact that it is nearly three years since there was an epidemic and a large population of susceptible children has grown up. Parents should be familiar with the symptoms which are similar to those of a common cold and should keep the children at home until quite certain measles will not develop. This is not a trifling complaint: the average deaths from measles is five to six times higher than from scarlet fever and a doctor should be called in immediately it is suspected 11 03 10

1911 03 31

Two nursemaids appeared in court for walking side by side with perambulators. Several people had to get off the pavement or stand up against the wall on account of the obstruction caused. But one said "My Mistress, Lady Donaldson of Magdalene Lodge, told me to take no notice of the police as they could do nothing in the matter, and I shan't either. It's a pity you haven't got something better to do". Where were they to be wheeled: children must go somewhere and the path was the only safe place. They had not stopped to look in shop windows and nobody had complained. They were found guilty but no penalty was inflicted 11 03 31c

1911 05 26

Sir Robert Baden-Powell inspected 500 Boy Scouts at a grand rally in Grange Road. The assembly was one of the most remarkable that has ever taken place in Cambridge, certainly nothing like it has ever been seen in the locality before. 'B.P.' has set in motion a mighty engine. Like an electric train it has gathered way with amazing swiftness and desolate is the place that has not heard the call of the Boy Scout engaged in an errand such seeking some lost child or succouring someone in danger or distress. 11 05 26b-d

1911 08 11

Girls at Eden Street School Cambridge should be taught domestic subjects and home making such as bed-making, plumbing and white-washing. Ald Campkin thought children ought to learn how to make beds at home and in poorer districts people had very little to cook. Ignorance of sanitation was appalling and when laundry classes were first started there had been considerable opposition, but they had been a success. However councillors objected to spending more for a trained teacher: this could be done by the present staff 11 08 11k

1911 12 08

The Cambridge Chapter of the Order of World Scouts was inaugurated in St Giles church. It is intended to bind Scoutmasters and officers more closely together in their great work and ensure good men for the positions. Every member swears solemnly to obey the Scout Law. The Histon Troop of the British Boy Scouts was present as were a patrol of the Cambridge B-P Scouts. The order was inaugurated in the Chapel Royal Savoy by the Grand Scoutmaster, Sir Francis Vane when the Cambridge British Boy Scouts were represented. 11 12 08

1911 12 22

A painful incident occurred at St Luke's church. The vicar, Rev F. Hird, was baptising a child when its father rushed in, shouted at his wife to leave and declared he would not have the child christened.

He forcibly prevented the vicar from performing the ceremony. The man's children had been baptised at the church and it appears that his objection this time was to his wife taking the boy to the church without his knowledge. 11 12 22

1912 03 01

The merry sound of children's voices and laughter brought many of the residents in Melbourne Place to their doors. A host of happy schoolboys were sporting on the greensward where the old tennis courts used to be and now forms the site of the new higher grade schools, just about to be erected. A file of girls was entering from the Eden Street end while a troop of Boy Schools was drawn up, colours fluttering in the breeze near a piece of ground marked out with surveyors measuring staves. They had come to see the Head Master and Head Mistress turn the first sods on the spot where the new schools are to be built. 12 03 01a

1912 04 26

Romsey Town children had been in court charged with playing in Ross Street or St Philip's Road to the annoyance of the householders. Efforts had been made for 14 years to secure a public recreation ground; now land between the Council School and Mill Road is advertised for sale. It represents one of the last chances to secure an open space. The children of Romsey Town are on the whole healthy and strong and should have an opportunity of breathing fresh air on this open space, a meeting was told. 12 04 26c

1912 05 03

Two Cambridge 13-year-old boys were summonsed after P.C. Moss saw them with pistols in Fen Ditton Lane. The boys, who were in Scouts' uniform, said they'd gone there to try them and did not know they were doing wrong. The guns contained loaded cartridges which they'd bought at a shop in Sussex Street. The magistrates said he would write to the Scoutmaster. The Scouts' movement was a good one and it was bad for the corps that they should do this in uniform. The pistols were forfeited. 12 05 03b

1912 05 31

The need of a better playground for the children of St Giles' Infants School has long been felt and no real surprise was occasioned when the Board of Education insisted the youngsters cease to play in the ill-adapted yard adjoining the school and that a new ground should be provided. A piece of ground was purchased and made into an excellent playground, part of it being converted into a grass plot. It was officially opened by Lady Albinia Donaldson when the opportunity was also taken to celebrate Empire Day. 12 05 31e

1912 06 07

Mr I.G. Elworthy told a meeting at Morley School that he had been one of the first members of Cherry Hinton parish council in 1894. When he first came there were only 50 houses but the district had developed enormously and the need for a recreation ground was very urgent. With the enormous increase of motor traffic it became more and more dangerous for children to play in the streets. The Council should purchase a site between Cherry Hinton Road and Mill Road and in the meantime the Cattle Market field should be laid out as a temporary playground. It could be planted with trees like Christ's Pieces and would preserve the beauty of the district 12 06 07d & e

1912 07 12

Chesterton workhouse has been criticised by a lady inspector. The nursing staff was totally inadequate at the time of her visit with a solitary nurse on duty in the sick wards doing the work of three. Another complaint was that the young children were relegated to the care of incapables or undesirables. The lady visitor may be somewhat faddy but there must be some foundation for her strictures. 12 07 12d

1913 02 21

A fifteen-year-old flower seller was summoned at the Children's Court for causing an obstruction in Market Street. He was offering a bunch of flowers to some ladies and had put his basket on the pavement. There were numbers of people who had shops and sold flowers and it did not seem fair competition for these others to sell in front of their shops. He was cautioned. There had been complaints of hawkers blocking thoroughfares. Another obstruction was caused by empty perambulators being wheeled on the pavements. That was clearly a breach of the law, the Chief Constable told magistrates 13 02 21 p8 CIP

1913 04 25

An Inquiry into plans to acquire land adjoining Vinery Road as a recreation ground for Romsey heard that it was quite a new neighbourhood; 35 years ago there were very few houses. But one of the streets was only 27 feet wide. Children had to play in the street and there a large number of police and railway men living in the area who needed to sleep during the daytime. They needed a recreation ground: it was not safe for youngsters to go to Parker's Piece while Coldham's Common had two rifle ranges and burgesses could pasture cattle there 13 04 25 p10

1913 05

Scouts: 400 at rally, Downing College [1.3]

1913 05 23

The Cambridge Association for the Feeble-minded was formed in 1908 to gather information on the number of feeble-minded children in schools. It was difficult to find vacancies in suitable homes for special cases. Some were so far from Cambridge that parents were unwilling to send their children to them and had made application for the care and protection they were unable to give their mentally-deficient youngsters. The Eastern Counties Institution is the only one taking unimprovable imbeciles and idiots from this district and was already full with a long waiting list. So there was no alternative but a pauper lunatic asylum or the Workhouse 13 05 23 p05 CIP

1913 08 15

The Romsey Town holiday play centres organised by the National Union of Women Workers have met with great approval. The centre for girls and infants is the Cambridge United Football Ground. It is a pretty sight to enter the spacious well-shaded field and see the children all at their happy occupations, crayoning, building castles out of bricks or tugging toy engines about. On the grandstand children dress dolls or knit while in a shady spot there are swings. Games such as cricket, shuttlecock and the maypole have been arranged. 13 08 15 p12 CIP

1913 08 29

Romsey town play centre was the first time an effort has been made to provide organised games for elementary school children during the summer vacation and had more than justified itself with over 9,000 youngsters at various times. Romsey was essentially a working class district where children are unable to spend a week by the sea. Two centres had been opened, the girls using Cambridge United Football Club's ground, the boys on a field near the allotment. It was much better than street games which are dangerous because of motor cars and the youngsters were not running wild about the streets. 13 08 29 p6 CIP

1913 12 26

Thirty-five Cambridge children received useful Christmas gifts at the police station when the first distribution of boots this winter took place. Some of the children looked on the police as austere men and refrained from doing anything wrong when they saw a constable. But a policeman was a man, and in many cases a father with a sympathy and love for children. The boots were purchased through collections at concerts and musical entertainments. They would hopefully be a first-rate fit so children could have a good rollicking time in the snow. 13 12 26 p

1914 07 03

Crime committed by youths has always been common in Cambridge. If thieving is more common here, it is because of the much greater temptations. The stealing of bicycles and their accessories is one of the commonest crimes, due largely to the careless manner in which the machines are left about by undergraduates. It is sad to think that robberies by youths are becoming more frequent but this is due to greater laxity on the part of parents in the control of their children p8

1914 08 21

The woman in the box office of the picture theatre at the Workman's Hall said she had been told not to let in any child under 14 unless accompanied by someone over 14. She had to turn away a great number. After they passed her they were questioned by the manager, Mr Billings. She could see the seats in the hall and children were supposed to sit together. Henry Kelly said he went with his brother and sister Blanche, 11. The boys sat at the back but she went to the front because she could not see. This was against the new regulations and a technical offence had been committed. 14 08 21 p3

1914 12 11

P.C. Lander told the inquest he had been called to the yard of Mr Webb's blacksmith shop at Cherry Hinton where he found the body of a girl lying on the ground. There was a ring of iron, a cart tyre, resting across her neck. He lifted it off and tried artificial respiration in front of the fire at the Red Lion Hotel. The tyre had been lodged against the grindstone. Children knew they were not allowed there. There was probably no more risk at this place than at many others in the village.

1917 01 03

1st Cambridge Brownies believed be oldest Brownie pack in world, 1st meeting 3.1.1917 [Misc.2.2]

1917 06 20

Chief Scout at Rally. Although some disappointment was felt at the non-appearance at the appointed time of General Baden-Powell, the Chief Scout, the rally of Cambridge, Newmarket and Ely Boy Scouts on Sheep Green, Cambridge last Wednesday was carried through with great success. "The Chief," after being delayed several hours through an air raid over London, turned up later in the afternoon, accompanied by the Member for the Borough (Mr. Almeric Paget 17 06 20 CIPof 17 06 20a; pictures 20c

1918 02 06

Communal Dinners. — Young children enjoy midday meals at the East Road schools now. The meals, which were started on January 14, are supplied by the Fitzroy Street communal kitchen, and each child pays a small sum per week for five dinners. When the school was first started there were only 23 children who availed themselves of the opportunity of taking their dinner at the school, but now the number has increased to about 40. *The dinner* is served in a room which was formerly the baby room of the old school, but which for a number of years has been used as a storeroom. The room has been cleaned, distempered and decorated, and presents quite a cheery appearance.

1918 11 27

Children's play centre at Barnwell Abbey school leads to improvement in behaviour of children – 18 11 27c

1918 12 25

Children Sue Employers. On Wednesday, before His Honour Judge Farrant at the Cambridge County Court, two Cambridge schoolchildren claimed £1 1s. each from a farmer as wages for six days' potato picking at 3s. 6d. per day. The Judge said he must hold that the children were employed at 3s. 6d. a day. He thought they were justified in the conclusion that they would receive that sum, however unreasonable it might have been in their case. He gave judgment for the plaintiffs for the amount claimed. 18 12 25

1919 05 09

Girl Guides inspected - the rally of the Cambridge and District Girl Guides in the grounds of Homerton College (Cambridge) and the inspection by Lady Baden-Powell, proved a highly attractive and successful venture. After the inspection the Guides sang, "For 'she's a jolly good Fellow," 19 04 16 CIPof [1.7] – 19 05 09a, 19 04 16a

1919 05 14

Killed by Shell fuse. A mystery, unsolved in spite a searching inquiry by the Cambridge Coroner and exhaustive inquiries by the Borough Police, attaches to the tragic death of Ernest Arthur Kitchener Ketch, a four-year-old child (whose parents reside at 6 Cheddars Lane, Cambridge) who died as the result of the explosion of a shell fuse on the Newmarket Road on Saturday morning. The child was seen playing with the fuse; where it obtained this deadly plaything remains a mystery. The fuse is described as "the most dangerous kind known," being of very high explosive and particularly sensitive. Four persons, in addition to the deceased child, were admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital on Saturday morning, suffering from injuries caused by the explosion. 19 05 14

1920

1920 12 29

Children's Christmas Toy and Present Fund, Eden Street distributes gifts poor children – photo – 20 12 29b

1922 02

"I have told people repeatedly at inquests that they had far better buy an old orange box to use as a cot than let children sleep with their parents. People are very apt to smother them unconsciously". The mother said it was not a really strong child for it had a wheezing cold since birth on January 15th. She fed it on bread slops and the breast generally. The weight of the child was below average being 6lbs 3ozs against the usual weight of 7lbs for a girl, 8lbs for a boy. Death was due to natural causes.

1922 03 07

An inquest was held by the Borough Coroner on a boy aged five, the son of a bricklayer, who had died from diphtheria. The parents had not called in a doctor until it was too late. The father said the boy had been ill for the last week or so, and had been away from school. "I belong to the Peculiar People and we believe in faith healing – the laying on of hands and anointing with oil". On March 4th the boy appeared to be worse and could not get his breath easily. He sent his wife for the Doctor at midnight and while she was gone the boy collapsed in his arms and could not draw his breath. The doctor said that if one went out to every child that was unwell one would be out half the night. Next morning the mother called and told him the child was dead. The child's brother had been swabbed at school as there were cases there. Unfortunately deceased was absent from school then. The Coroner said "When a case like this occurs it not only affects the parents and their children, but it may have a very serious effect upon the whole town"

1922 05 27

Among the charitable institutions of Cambridge is the Cottage Home for Little Orphan Girls in Fitzwilliam Road. Its work has been carried on so quietly and unassumingly that the majority of townspeople are probably unaware of its existence. More than fifty years ago two wealthy Cambridge undergraduates were so distressed at the sight of many poor and neglected children in the town that they gave a certain sum of money for the founding of a home for orphan girls. Girls are admitted between the ages of four and twelve and are trained for domestic service and I am assured that those who have passed through the Home had done exceedingly well.

1922 06 27

The Chief Scout, Lieut.-General Sir R.S.S. Baden-Powell is on a visit to Cambridge and yesterday witnessed a Scout rally by the Cambridge & District Boys Scouts in Queens' College Grove. On entering the Grove the Chief was surrounded by Scouts, who had been in ambush. They cried his Zulu name as they gathered around him and then sang him a chorus of welcome called "Ingonyama".

Translated the worlds sung mean "He is a lion. He is a lion. He is greater than a lion. He is an hippopotamus 22 06 27

1922 07 27

I don't think there will be any doubt about the keenness of the children of Cambridge in the League of Nations after the way in which they turned out to the Rally on Wednesday evening in spite of the most unfortunate weather. At one time it looked as if it might be necessary to abandon altogether the procession of decorated vehicles but the youngsters were so disappointed that the teachers resolved to "carry on". From various incidents it was clear that the school children were determined to come, even if their teachers were unable to bring them. Children from schools not taking part begged teachers from schools elsewhere to let them join in their group.

1922 08 13

The School Medical Officer reported that the percentage of children with uncleanly bodies was 4.1. The majority of the cases referred for treatment come over and over again from the same incorrigible families in whom very often mental defect is also present to a marked degree, the mother especially being of too low intelligence, or too unstable, to care adequately for her family

1922 12 07

Councillors and representatives of Boys' Clubs met to discuss the possibility of providing recreation, together with some useful occupation for the ninety odd lads between the ages of 14 and 19 who are now unemployed in Cambridge. A large number of these boys were running the streets and probably deteriorating through idleness and lack of discipline. The Council had tried an experiment in the form of a gymnasium, but it fell through. The boys were at a very critical stage of growth, and it was dangerous for them to be going about the streets with nowhere to go. At home they were not wanted. They were getting in a very dangerous frame of mind, for they felt they were inferior to others 22 12 07

1922 12 22

The casual spectator dropping in at the Service Buildings, Eden Street, Cambridge might well believe he had found the headquarters of toy-land. It is here that the work of packing and distributing the toys sent in connection with the Children's Toy Fund is taking place with a busy hive of workers, largely composed of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides engaged in carrying out these duties. For the guidance of the packers a blackboard announces the fact that each parcel should contain two oranges, one apple, one bag of nuts, one bag of sweets, one bon-bon, two large and one small toy. Besides this each child was to receive a book or picture paper, and chocolates were to be given to babies

1922 12 22

"Christmas comes but once a year, but when it comes it brings good cheer". Subscribers to the Unemployed Christmas Fund, had they paid a visit to the Labour Exchange, Regent-street, Cambridge, could have had no doubt that the Christmas message they have sent out to the Cambridge unemployed will bring gladness and some measure of seasonable cheer to many homes which would otherwise be devoid of it. Each man received a 5s. voucher for himself, a similar one in respect of his wife and a half-crown voucher in respect of each child. The vouchers were available for the purchase of coal, bread, meat, milk or provisions. There were also special pink vouchers in respect of kindly offers by tradesmen to supply groceries, meat, flour etc. up to a given amount. One man was given vouchers for himself and seven children.

1924 01 12

Cambridge must face the growing danger and disaster of its housing shortage. In our not very large town between 7 and 800 families are in immediate need of a house, not because they are unemployed, or very poor, or in any way unable to pay a fair rent, but because there are no houses for them to go into. Families are divided. The husband is here where his work lies, the wife and children are living elsewhere. Some dare not have children. Others have them and find that they are no longer welcome

tenants. It is not easy for a young wife and mother to make good when her two rooms are rented and when the use of the kitchen, bathroom and lavatory by her family are looked upon as an intrusion.

1924 03 16c

Sir - A disgraceful scene was witnessed today in Great Eastern Street, Cambridge, of a poor ex-soldier and his wife and family of three, including a baby, and his furniture, being put out into the streets. The man and his wife had been expecting to go into rooms, but when it was found that they had children, they received a letter refusing to take them in. There was no rent owing, so that was not the excuse. - A Looker-on

1924 10 08

Two hundred children are in attendance four nights per week at the play centres at Barnwell Abbey and New Street schools. There the number attending exceed the accommodation and the staff, one woman had 98 children to look after & voluntary help was continually breaking down. Alderman Starr asked if they were taking children from parents who wanted to go to the pictures. The centres were established some years ago under voluntary control, the Education committee providing accommodation, light and heat.

1924 11 02c

The first of a series of film displays with the object of educating public opinion of certain dread diseases was held in Newnham. Of all the dread diseases which devastated civilised countries to-day, venereal diseases were perhaps the most serious. A centre was established at Addenbrooke's where treatment was free and secret. Since 1917 the number of attendances was 11,905. The disease was so serious as to warrant the most vigorous propaganda. The responsibility of parents in the education of their children in sex matters ought not to be shirked.

1925 01 10

The final contingent of happy kiddies crowded into the Drill Hall, East Road and emulated the example set by their predecessors. The clamour of half a thousand happy young lungs and energetic tongues was present throughout the proceedings. Cheery children of all ages participated in the scenes of revelry, four-year old toddlers giving utterance to their gratification with gurgles of joy as sincere as the shouts of the elder children were loud.

1925 10 02

The new Harvey Goodwin Home for Boys which has been erected at St Luke's Park, Victoria Road, Cambridge under the auspices of the Church of England Society for Providing Homes for Children (Waifs and Strays) was formally opened. The house is a fine, red brick building, capable of housing 35 boys and stands on a splendid site, and within its own grounds. The Bishop of Ely spoke of the work of sending boys from these homes to the Dominions under proper supervision.

1926 05 28

Cambridge councillors heard that in 1912 a piece of land in Shelley Row, together with the house adjoining was given anonymously to the Corporation as a perpetual playground to the children of Castle End. It was assumed that the rent of the house would be available for the upkeep and improvement of the playground. £80 would be required to make a really satisfactory playground; it was resolved to spend £20 on putting the ground in order

1926 08 10

The County Medical Officer reported that more than 400 schoolchildren are systematically re-examined on accounts of varying degrees of malnutrition. Treatment mainly comprised the provision of malt and cod liver oil, and in some of the worst cases, maintenance for some months in an open-air school. With separation allowances and the revival in trade after the war improvement was rapid and the proportion of subnormal children dropped, but in the last three years the figure had trebled to about 12 per cent.

1926 09 14

At Cambridge Education Committee Ald Starr said that recently children had gone to school showing signs of chicken-pox. Were proper steps taken to prevent them going to school? Dr Dalton thought a very big mistake had been made in excluding an enormous number of children because they happened to be in a house where chicken-pox was. Children were excluded where necessary but in cases like mumps and chicken-pox it was very much better to let the children go to school. When it came to more serious diseases like measles it was a very different matter

1926 10 15

The old Albert Institute, Grafton Street, Cambridge was the scene of great enthusiasm on the opening of new headquarters for the Cambridge Boy Scouts' Association which will supply a much-felt want. Afterwards the presentation of medals for athletics and swimming took place. An enjoyable sing-song followed and then a meeting of leaders who discussed the uses to which the headquarters could be put. Meanwhile refreshments were served to allay the pangs of hunger caused by such enthusiasm. Lantern slides on India and China were shown by Assistant Commissioner W.B. Gourlay and the evening closed with everybody in the best of spirits 26 10 15

1927 05 13

Cambridge councillors proceeded to the site of the open-air school which, when completed, will provide accommodation for 120 physically and 50 mentally defective children. The two departments will be quite separate. They read of children who were excluded from school owing to ill-health and many were running wild in the streets without education or discipline. The remedy was a day open-air school where they could receive the treatment they required – open air, good food and rest, while at the same time their education would be continued. Vinery Road school had been opened in May 1916 with 20 children and benefits had far exceeded expectations. When this new school was finished they would look back with amusement on the tent used as a classroom and the first wooden shelter which was still in good enough condition to be moved there.

1927 05 13

The foundation stone of the Brunswick School in Walnut Tree Avenue, Cambridge was laid. It will provide accommodation for nearly 1,100 children. The Mayor said it was unfortunate, perhaps, that the other Brunswick School fell down but this was a better building. When they compelled children to go to school there was an obligation to see the building provided as much fresh air and sunlight as possible. They hoped that with the extra communication which some day would make traffic over the river easier for schoolchildren (laughter) Chesterton people would send their children to that school

1927 07 05

"A state bordering on perfection" is the report of the Cambridge Public Dental officer on the treatment of elementary school children during 1928. 642 parents had written to refuse treatment for their children but we shall slowly educate the public that dental treatment for children is well worth while, he says. The improvement in the condition of the teeth has advantageously affected the physique of the children – in 1908 17 per cent of the Cambridge children were of poor physique, whereas in 1925 only 1.8 per cent were found to be so.

1927 07 13

Addenbrooke's Hospital propose to build a children's ward with 22 beds and it was thought the children would enjoy being nearer the street and that passers-by would enjoy seeing the children. The X-ray department is at present very cramped; they had already decided to obtain fresh X-ray apparatus and the place wanted extending. Seven bedrooms for the medical and surgical staff could be built above it. The present staff numbered four but before long they would need six. It was a difficulty as to how the staff was to get into the main building but a covered way could be made.

1928 03 05

Over 1,000 Scouts raised their voices in a Zulu chorus when their Chief, Sir Robert Baden-Powell attended their mammoth rally at Cambridge Guildhall. They packed the hall nearly to the point of

solidity including Sea Scouts and University Rovers and some 600 Wolf Cubs. The Chief Scout was accompanied by Dr Eastman, the Great Chief of the Sioux Indians, who is commissioner of the Scouts of America. He wore complete Redskin garb with the traditional head-dress of eagles' feathers. The scouts were very interested in his tomahawk. 28 03 05 [1.10]

1928 05 08

The work of the Cambridge Birth Control Clinic was explained to Cambridge Women's Welfare Association. The foremost difficulty was the absence of a contraceptive method so simple and effective as to meet the needs of the over-tired, feckless, under-housed, unintelligent or mentally-deficient woman. But although they should do something to enable people to have just the children they could manage, their methods, generally called 'birth control', were disgusting and filthy. There was danger in the free use of contraceptive methods by unmarried young people. They might be getting to the morals of the poultry yard.

1928 05 25

Amid scenes of enthusiasm the Mayor of Cambridge opened the new Coleridge Road recreation ground which has just been completed at a total cost of £7,000. It was in September 1925 the Corporation bought the ground for the public and ever since then the Surveyor and his merry men had been preparing it. By the autumn they would be able to play football on it and by next summer cricket. They wanted to make a garden as well and if any person felt disposed to present them with a dozen flowering trees the council would make good use of them. Critics said it was not wanted but in the future many would be grateful for it. It would keep the children off the streets and from the danger of the traffic.

1928 07 09

Close to the windmill on the north side of Milton Road, opposite Chesterton Hall Crescent, occupying one of the highest and healthiest sites in the locality and surrounded by spacious lawns and trim walks stands the new open-air school for defective and sub-normal children. It is an ideal school, admirably adapted to its purpose and planned and equipped on a generous scale, a veritable children's paradise. The opening ceremony was an open-air function. Open air schools for delicate children have come to stay and in the future all schools will probably become open-air

1929 01 31

Mr Geoffrey Pyke of the Malting House School, Cambridge appeared at London Bankruptcy Court. He'd opened the school in October 1924 as a research school for children's education and never had any idea of making money out of it. He had expended £15,000 on it as against fees amounting to some £600. It was amply staffed and records were kept of the sayings and doings of the boys. That formed part of the research work and although the records were of scientific value they would fetch only ten shillings as waste paper. In fact he would not expect to receive a 'bean' for them from anybody who bought the school.

1929 02 21

Cambridge Guardians debated purchasing number 137 Gwydir Street for the few children in the Workhouse. Mr Francis said they should not build on that side; there were complaints of the smoke and grime and he could not imagine a much worse place. The right place was at Chesterton where they would at least get the air and the sun. Mr Lofts said they could not afford to expend that amount of money, while they could board children an extension was unnecessary. There was no rule against boarding out children under three but they tried to keep babies with their mothers

1929 04 04

Guardians decide against boarding out children – CDN 4.4.29

1930

1931 06 26

Stetchworth Dairies won the contract to supply Grade A tuberculin tested milk to elementary schools; children will receive a bottle containing one-third of a pint at a cost of 1d. An experiment in Lanarkshire showed that children supplied with milk were much more buoyant and lively both in body and mind and it had a striking effect in improving their physical and mental alertness. Parents should spare the penny a day so their children could receive these benefits. 31 02 13e
Plans for children to be accommodated at St Neots Poor Law Institution were rejected by the Government who say children should not be placed in an institution intended for the sick and invalid poor. But the Guardians cannot afford to procure another home for them. At Huntingdon the present children's quarters and old laundry could be adopted to take 50 tramps on the separate cell system. 31 06 26c

1931 07 03

Latest figures show that about half of the cows in England are suffering from tuberculosis. Probably more than 1,000 children die from infection from milk and many more are maimed for life. We suffered an annual wastage of many human lives with grave financial losses to the farmers, Prof. Buxton of Cambridge School of Agriculture told a conference. 31 07 03c & d

1931 09 11

Many will mourn the loss of Miss Katharine Wilson, creator of the Chesterton Preparatory School. She had an amazing power of understanding children so that the most difficult little people became happy and tractable. Boys and girls of whatever nationality, whether Italian, Russian, American, Estonian or English, from toddlers to twelve years old, all found themselves equally at home and grew into resourceful little citizens. 31 09 11b

1932 01 16

The annual tea party of the Parkside Infant Welfare Centre was attended by 60 mothers and their infants. Few fathers were present, no doubt due to the fact that the mothers were better able to look after their children without their presence. It was important they had prompt and proper care during the early years of life and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee had done wonderful work in this regard. 32 01 16

1932 08 26

Sir - Has the country gone examination mad? Mass production may be effective in industry but when it is applied to education it becomes tragic. I recall a large schoolroom filled with village children, with a master who was a retired soldier with a pension whose wife taught the girls needlework in the afternoons. There was no other help except that the elder children had to teach the youngest. The modern child is much quicker in the uptake and has a wider outlook at 14 than I had at 20. - 'Rusticus'. 32 08 26g

1932 12 30

Cambridge enjoyed a quiet Noel this year. In the children's wards of Addenbrooke's Hospital the spirit of Christmas had most play. The three rooms were decorated to represent Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan and the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe. The shoe was kindly lent by Messrs Joshua Taylor. Every child had a nursery rhyme quilt on their bed and their stocking were filled, the night Sister playing Santa Claus. 32 12 30a & b

1933 10 16

The new Municipal Health Centre in Auckland Road houses the school dental and medical clinics as well as maternity and child welfare centres. After health visitors started in 1906 infant mortality had dropped from 114 per 1,000 down to 38 last year. As for the dental clinic it was Dr Charles Cunningham and Mr Sedley Taylor whose combination of science and benevolence set an example which had been followed all over the civilised world. 33 10 16

1934 09 24

The four children of Mr H. Clark of Queen's Street, Cambridge, are very sporting. Alice, aged 21 is interested in running, while Ken, 19, is keen on billiards and won the junior Federation cup. Horace, the youngest, aged 15, is a good boxer and has won numerous school fights while Frank is one of the most versatile and goes in for swimming, running and boxing. He won several competitions while with his regiment in India. Mr & Mrs Clark are very proud of their sons and wonder if any other family can beat their all-round record. 34 09 24

1934 08 24

Some 750 young anglers assembled on Parker's Piece and were played to the station by the band of the Boys' Brigade to catch a special train to St Ives to take part in the Albion Angling Society's annual fishing match for youngsters. The miniature army of anglers disported themselves along the river bank at Hemingford meadows. It was not unusual to see gathered in one small space at least half a dozen children with lines and rods crossed and floats completely submerged. The winners of the President's cup for the best catch were F. Parr (boys) and Marjorie Benton (girls). 34 08 24

1934 09 24

The Cottage Home for Orphan Girls is a small house in Fitzwilliam Road, a part of Cambridge which is not generally seen by the population. Few people were aware of its existence. It seemed there were not many destitute children in Cambridge for the local cases were not numerous but it was open to orphans from anywhere. It was started by two undergraduates named Coote and Watney and the foundation stone had been laid in June 1871. 34 09 24

1935 01 10

Who can claim the greatest number of living descendants? J. Haynes of Thoday Street says: "I am 80 and have eight children living. There are 37 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. My eldest daughter is 39 and the youngest great grandchild 14". Miss K. Brand of Gloucester Street says "My grandmother (87) has had 12 children; there are 62 grandchildren, 62 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. 35 01 10

1935 05 11

The new West Chesterton children's playground off Histon Road was opened by the Mayor and hundreds of youngsters thronged the ground for the occasion. Since it was bought as an orchard three years ago an immense amount of work had been necessary. It was not complete and they were hoping for swings and perhaps a roundabout later. It is primarily intended for younger children and not for the playing of hard-ball games such as cricket but old and middle-aged people could also enjoy the ground for sitting about. 35 05 11b

1935 11 18

Mrs Rackham told councillors that at present a crowd of children was loosed on the labour market all at once and the best were often forced to take the worst jobs, or ones they were not suited for. One County School girl had been compelled to take domestic service. Although the school leaving age was 14 they should not deprive children of the possibility of getting employment and some should be allowed to leave earlier. But she was outvoted. 35 12 18d

1935 12 18

Death statistics show that measles and whooping cough had caused as much loss of child life as diphtheria and scarlet fever and since 1910 influenza had caused at least 1,400 deaths in Cambridgeshire. Improved travelling facilities and cheap cinema entertainment were great causes of the spread of infections and until people refrained from exposing others to risk in those surroundings there could be little improvement, Dr F Robinson warned Rotarians 35 12 18a

1936 05 21

At the opening of the new Rock Road library the Mayor said that in these difficult times it was important that there should be in every district a building which would help to circulate the best ideas and information for the guidance of residents. In the days to come the building will become more and

more the intellectual home of the people who live around it. All would agree it was the right policy to encourage children to use it. He regretted the absence of a representative of the Carnegie Trust, which had helped with the money for the library 36 05 21a

1936 05 23

Mr W.A. Fenton, the Borough Librarian, has seen a tremendous growth in the reading public since he took office. The new Rock Road Library has had an excellent start-off this week. When I looked in last night I found a continuous flow of adults and juveniles. The children's reading room was practically full and some boys to whom I spoke assured me that everything was quite all right. Work on a new branch library at the corner of Milton Road and Ascham Road will begin almost immediately. The site appears to be an ideal one and new building should be complete before 1937 is very far advanced 36 05 23c

1937 04 23

Opening Ascham Road library, the Mayor said it was a great day for Chesterton. In that beautiful building, with good light and accommodation they could look at the books and select them for themselves. The children's library would encourage youngsters to read. At present physical education was the fashion. We were in danger of producing a nation finely developed from the waist down. The library would help to counteract it. Ten months ago they opened a branch library in Rock Road and so far 87,799 books had been issued, very close to the number at Mill Road branch which had been in existence 40 years. (Applause). 37 04 23c & d

1937 05 29

Within the next few weeks about thirty Basque children brought to England following the terrible air raids at Bilbao and Gernika will be arriving in Cambridge. They will be taken to Pampisford Vicarage where the children will remain for at least six months being looked after by volunteers from the University. As they are destitute provisions must be made for their welfare and beds, boots and clothes are required. 37 05 29

1937 06 09

A meeting at Cambridge Guildhall to raise funds for the Basque children's hostel at Pampisford brought several promises of 'adopting' children by guaranteeing fifteen shillings a week. There will be 29 young refugees at Pampisford Vicarage and volunteers were needed to do cleaning, carpentry and plumbing. Leah Manning described the terrible tragedy of Guernica and the conditions in Bilbao where everyone from the President to the poorest refugee had only black bread, coarse cabbage and a little rice to eat. 37 06 09a & b 37 06 12a

1937 06 18

A crowd of several hundred people gathered at Cambridge station to welcome the Basque children refugees who are to be cared for at the Pampisford hostel. They travelled from Southampton in a special coach, arriving tired and a little awed. Gradually smiles were to be seen on their faces when they heard an interpreter repeat the welcome in their own language. Then they got down to tea, with plenty of cakes and bananas, before setting off to Pampisford by car 37 06 18a & b

1937 06 23

Sir - The 29 Basque refugee children are now settled in the Vicarage at Pampisford after their ordeal in Spain. There have been heavy initial expenses in creating a home in an unfurnished house not designed for the purpose and insufficiently provided with sanitation. Several firms have supplied goods free or at cost prices and individuals have given their labour in repairing, painting and cleaning the Vicarage. We hope to employ a cook-housekeeper and charwoman as well as a part-time gardener to grow vegetables for the winter - F.M. Cornford. 37 06 23

1937 07 29

Charles Henry Driver, custodian of the Town Bathing Sheds at Sheep's Green since 1903 is to retire. He has saved over 90 lives, receiving several life-saving certificates. It will be children who will miss

him most, even though most of them only know him for the firm way he suppresses outbreaks of youthful over-enthusiasm. He has taught hundreds of them to swim. His fancy dives are a speciality and his appearance on the diving board is the signal for a crowd to collect to watch him 37 07 29

1937 09 25

Jesus Lane Sunday School was set up in 1827, later moving to King Street where many local children were taught religion by undergraduates who rose to positions of eminence in the church. A new large school was erected in Paradise Street in 1868. But times change. After the war many families have moved further out so now they have sold that building and erected a new hall in Brooks Road which will also serve as a temporary church until a new one can be built. All children between eight and 15 are invited 37 09 25

1937 12 24

Fellowship House toy distribution, which has taken place about Christmas-time for the last five years, came to an end after a very strenuous week. Altogether nearly 1,300 bags were distributed to the children of all unemployment men whose addresses were obtained from the Employment Exchange. Each bag contained an old toy, a new toy, a book, orange and bag of sweets and were delivered by private cars. Then as a 'Grand Finale' some 1,400 children were given a free film entertainment at the Victoria Cinema. 37 12 24 #

1938 01 20

The hostel for Basque children have had to leave Pampisford and experienced great difficulty in finding a suitable house large enough to take all the children. Now they have moved to Salisbury Villas, Station Road 38 01 20c

1938 01 27

Morley Stuart, editor of the CDN, said news of events outside Cambridge came from the Press Association over a wonderful instrument known as a Creed. It was received in Morse code being punched out by a system of dots on to strips of paper which were fed into a machine which automatically transcribed them into typescript on sheets of paper. They had long reports of local meetings and councils; sportsmen were well catered for and ladies not forgotten. Due attention was paid to children in the weekly paper 38 01 27a & b

1938 03 19

Cambridge Spanish refugee relief organisation had transformed Pampisford Vicarage, which had been practically derelict. Twenty-nine Basque children had arrived on 19th June 1937, the youngest aged seven, all fresh from their tragic experiences. The Hostel had moved in January to No.1 Salisbury Villas. The children had all lost one parent and to send them back would be cruelty; they did not know where some of their guardians were and one lad would face the firing squad if he returned. But if donations were not forthcoming, they would soon run out of funds. 38 03 19e

1938 05 14

A new mental welfare centre for children was opened at the Fitzroy Hall, Wellington Street. When such a child came of school age he was excluded from school so the mother had to have him at home all day, teaching what she could and preventing him getting into danger. This was in addition to her ordinary work. The child missed the social life and companionship of other pupils. The new centre would allow classes five days a week with the elder girls cooking a hot meal and doing all the laundry and kitchen work. 38 05 14 & a

1938 06 08

During an air raid the children attending infants' and junior schools should disperse to their homes, the Air Raid Precautions Committee was told. The responsibility of keeping children at school was great. Mothers would certainly come for them. 38 06 08c

1938 09 29

Cambridge colleges have sent out notices to undergraduates ordering them not to come into residence until further instruction. However examinations will take place as usual and candidates will be allowed to come up for them. Meanwhile preparations continue for the reception of 10-11,000 London children it is planned to evacuate. Church halls and schools will be suitable for temporary accommodation. Women helpers, blankets and rugs are still needed 38 09 29a

1938 10 01

The Mayor said he'd received a telegram that plans to evacuate London children had been cancelled. Later he got another saying they were on their way. They arrived in three motor coaches, the children's ages ranging from six weeks to four years. Accommodation was found at Homerton and Newnham College. Their mothers left the children, aged from six weeks to four years, to the tender mercies of students and returned to London. Today the babies have rejoined their mothers, which is a very happy solution. 38 10 01

1939 03 22

The Basque Children's Hostel is still in need of support. The children came over in 1937 and moved to the present hostel in 1938. The conquest of the greater part of Spain by Franco and his Fascist friends meant their parents were scattered and it was dangerous for them to return. Several businesses had given valuable support including Chivers and Pordage. It was a very happy home. There had been no bullying or dishonesty. Three of the boys were at garages being trained as motor mechanics, one girl was a dressmaker, another a laboratory assistant 39 03 22a

1939 09 01

The first children who have been separated from their London families by the dark threat of war arrived at Cambridge station. The train contained 800 boys and girls, all had a label bearing their name and address, a few carried a football, several had oranges. They were handed bags containing their rations and helped on to the waiting buses 39 09 01a

1939 09 01

An experimental gas mask drill was held for Ramsden Square children. Over 100 assembled and were instructed in the proper use of the gas masks by the senior warden, Mr E. Winkworth. They were told a whistle would sound in the event of an air raid, that the sound of a rattle would indicate a gas attack and a bell would sound when it was safe for them to come from their shelters. Aeroplanes roared overhead as the children were instructed 39 09 01b

1939 09 01

Compulsory powers of billeting are now in force in Cambridge. Quite simply it amounts to this. Enough voluntary offers have been received to take in all the children who are coming in school parties. But expectant mothers and those with young children are also expected and householders will be required to house them. The payment is five shillings a week for each adult and three shilling for each child for lodging only. The adults will be responsible for their food. The third class comprise voluntary helpers from the evacuated areas working full time in Cambridge. The payment for them will be twenty-one shillings for board and lodging which will be paid by the Government. 39 09 01c

1939 09 14

The headmistress of the Jews' Infant School, Commercial End, London says they were all given the heartiest welcome in Fordham. Not one teacher is in an uncomfortable billet and nobody wants to be rehoused. Quiet a number of parents came down pm Sunday and all were delighted at the reception given to their children. Mr Pickett, headmaster of the village school, is excellent. Village people have been quite ignorant of Jewish children and Jewish ways and a great deal of good should result from the contact. 39 09 14a

1939 11 29

Some classrooms in Trumpington and St Paul's schools were 'dark pits' because of first-aid depots being placed in schools. There was a great danger of sandbags making the rooms damp and as

classrooms were being used for people to sleep in all night it was difficult to get them aired, councillors were told. It was also alarming to see enormous laundry vans standing in narrow playgrounds which have to be manoeuvred when the children were about. But at Cherry Hinton there was nowhere else they could go. However three halls there were being used by children now. If they were not fit for first-aid posts, they were not fit to teach children in, Mrs Rackham said. 39 11 29c

1939 12 23

For two years a small community of Basque children have been our guests. Cambridge has become familiar with the little black-eyed, black-haired boys and girls and has enjoyed watching them dance and sing. They arrived under tragic circumstances, racked and nervous; the peace and quiet of the country village of Pampisford, redeemed and restored them. Now they have been adopted into English homes until they can return in safety to their own beloved land of Spain. Now a booklet has been published about their experiences 39 12 23

1940

1940 01 03

Mayor of London visits evacuated children, St Philip's, St Paul's & St Matthews's School – photo – 40 01 03, 40 01 04

1940 03 02

Girl Guiders rally Cambridge – photo – 40 03 02

1940 04 25

Soldiers ... Family Association will get illegitimate children of serving men adopted and made weekly allowance while process takes place – 40 04 25b

1940 09 30

Cambridge children on torpedoed boat are safe – 40 09 30b

1940 11 06

New Street schools communal feeding for children – photo – 40 11 06c

1940 12 03

Girl guides in war-time: what they are doing – 40 12 03b

1941 08 22

Cherry Hinton Hall Hostel for evacuated children opened at start war for children who cannot be kept in their billets. Some may stay; psychological treatment has been obtained – 41 08 22

1942 05 02

Airman Saves Child. Prompt action on Sunday by an R.A.F. man saved the life of Janet Chapman, aged 2½, of 3 Gloucester Street, Cambridge, She was in a pram in charge of her elder brother near Quayside when it started to run down some steps and the child was thrown out of the pram into the river. Maurice Frederick Buy, the airman, dived fully clothed into the river, rescuing the child. After treatment she was allowed to go home. 42 05 02

1942 06 10

Sea Cadets force launched for lads 14-17 – 42 06 10

1942 07 02

Girls' Training Corps established, many in uniform – 42 07 02a

1942 08 17

Four main schools close for summer holidays – poor response to scheme for voluntary attendance at school during holidays to counter-balance the dearth of holiday facilities in wartime – 42 08 17b

1942 12 28

Was 'austerity' Christmas - festivities – Ross St children's home, District Nurses Home, Church Army Hostel, YMCA, Harvey Goodwin Home, WVS – 42 12 28, a

1942 12 28

American servicemen party for children at Bull Hotel – 42 12 28b

1943 06 23

Evacuee mother neglected children, Doric St – 43 06 22a

1943 07 02

New nursery for 50 children opened at Ditton Fields – third day nursery – 43 07 02; an example to whole country – 43 07 02b; photo – 43 07 19

1943 12 06

Queues outside Mothercraft Clinic, Willis Road, for toys made by the women whose children attend the clinic – photo – 43 12 06

1943 12 10

"Insufficient sleep." — At the annual meeting of the Cambridgeshire Association of the National Union of Teachers, held at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Saturday, it was agreed to submit the following resolution to the N.U.T. Easter Conference: "That this conference instructs the Executive to call the serious attention of the Board of Education to the ill-effects, physical, mental and educational, on schoolchildren of insufficient sleep. It further instructs the Executive to use its influence with the Press to promote a campaign designed to induce parents to send children to bed at an early hour, under conditions which will enable them to obtain the amount of sleep they require,"

1943 12 20

Marshall's Flying School party for 400 children – 43 12 20

1944 05 05

Scout Inspection. There was a fine muster of 500 for the annual St. George's Day service of the Cambridge Boy Scouts Association, held, at Cambridge on Sunday. The parade was made up of Scouters, Scouts, Rovers and Wolf Cubs and included troops from the district and also Cambridge University Rovers. District Scoutmaster R. P. Ellwood was in charge of the parade, which formed up on Parker's Piece, and to music provided by the 5th Cambs Home Guard Band, marched to Holy Trinity Church 44 05 05 CIPof

1945 06 15

Cambridgeshire Teachers met on Saturday at the Technical College by the kind invitation of the Principal, Mr. R. W. Wilson. Welcoming the assembly, he expressed his great pleasure in the close relations now established between the college and the County teachers. Several matters of interest were dealt with at the meeting. Miss Nan Youngman, county advisor on Art education, outlined a scheme to be considered by the Education Committee for the purchase by the committee of original contemporary works of art for circulation among the schools. She stressed that pictures chosen would be easily understood by children, and would have a realistic approach to the subject. It was important that children should appreciate the immense difference between original works and reproductions. Donations from schools would be welcomed, as well as gifts or loans from interested persons. Mr. P. J. Walling, reporting the matter of the attendance of children at public dance halls, said that the County Youth Organisations Committee was to be asked to deal with the problem. Recent discussions of the Joint Advisory Committee were also considered, and the secretary reported that an individual record card, which would assist materially in the difficult matter of selecting children of the three new

types of secondary schools had been finally approved, and referred to the Education Committee for adoption. Mr. Walling was warmly congratulated on his work as secretary of the teachers' panel during the committee's first year. 45 06 15

1946 02 16

A.B.C. Minors, providing Saturday films for children, inaugurated – 46 02 16

1946 02 23

'Grace on their doorsteps' by Kathleen Wallace – picture of Cambridge childhood at beginning century with Dons as playfellows – 46 02 23

1947 05 21 c

So that parents of young children can go out to the cinema, or visit friends or relations, a sitters-in service was started in Cambridge a year ago and has been operating ever since. At the present time there are 49 sitters and 62 parents on the register. The cost of the service is an annual subscription of 2s 6d which enables the parent to be on the register for a year, and 2s 6d each time a sitter-in is employed. Their "star turn" I am told, was, until she left Cambridge recently, much to the regret of all, a grandmother of 70!

1947 05 28

There is an urgent requirement at Trumpington for school accommodation to meet the needs of children from the new housing estate. Coun Mrs Rackham told the Cambridge primary education sub-committee that children were "coming in fast" from the new estate but it would not be a wise proceeding to erect huts as it would take such a very long time and it was doubtful if they would be ready before the new school in, it was hoped, September 1948. The playground too would be very much spoiled by building operations and it was a far better idea, if possible, to use the Free Church Schoolroom 47 05 28

1947 06 11

As an emergency measure the Public Health Committee of Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed that the Infectious Diseases Hospital be made available for any initial cases for which observation in hospital might be necessary, until the smallpox hospital at Oakington could be opened. Following further negotiations the National Fire Service is now prepared to allow the Council to retain the static water tank on the Romsey Recreation Ground (it has been proposed that it shall be used as a children's paddling pool), and to pay the Council £107.8s.10d, the revised estimate of the cost of demolition and reinstatement of the site

1947 07 09

May I explain why St Matthew's Piece has not yet been restored to its former state. It was requisitioned by the War Department for a vehicle car-park. The surface and foundations were not suitable for such purposes and the military authorities were told that their vehicles would cause extensive damage to the playing area and would involve them in a heavy claim for compensation. When the War Department released the site the Corporation lodged a substantial claim for reinstatement. The claim has now been referred to higher authority for arbitration. My committee sincerely regret that the ratepayers of St Matthew's ward and their children in particular, have been deprived of the use of this ground for so long – letter from G.F. Nobbs, Chairman Cambridge commons and cemetery committee

1947 09 19

Eagle Tavern Children's Outing. An exciting day out was enjoyed by 70 children in a river trip to Upware. On arrival they sat down to an excellent sandwich lunch, and then managed to consume five gallons of ice-cream kindly given by a local firm, besides over 1 cwt of fruit, given by a friend in the country. An exciting sports programme followed in which every child received a prize, and then sat down to an excellent tea after which they sang themselves back to Cambridge

1947 10 06

In the converted green and cream day nursery, and to the happy shouts of the little ones playing in the spacious garden outside, the Harvey Goodwin House, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, which has been adapted from a Home for boys to a nursery for babies and toddlers in the care of the Church of England Children's Society (formerly the "Waifs and Strays") was opened by Lady Whitby. It will accommodate 20 children who remain there until adopted or boarded out. Many friends gathered in the day nursery which has been ideally adapted for the purpose with its cheerful colour scheme, gay chintz curtains at the big windows, nursery pictures on the walls and evidence of its young occupants in the soft toys scattered around.

1947 11 17

The S.O.S. Society's Boys' Hostel at Winston House, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge was officially opened in the presence of a large audience, including magistrates from the surrounding district. Lord Huntingfield spoke its work in relation to its care for boys who had either come into contact with Probation Officers or had homes that were not particularly desirable. He commented "Youth, being what it is, does not always recognise the laws of the grown-ups and they are inclined to do things which bring them into conflict with the long arm of the law. These are the kind of boys taken in here and looked after". 47 11 17

1947 12 24

Pram park wanted, p4

Cavendish Laboratory lectures children, p7

1948 01 21

Cambridgeshire has been well to the fore in implementing the proposals in the Children's Bill. Under the Bill responsibility for the care of children who have no normal home life is placed squarely on the shoulders of the local authority. I think I am right in saying that ours is one of the first County Council's to anticipate legislation. A Children's Committee has been set up, a full-time Children's officer appointed, an office established, and authorisation obtained for adding what staff is found necessary. The Committee has inherited a number of foster homes and the "Red House", Little Shelford and Ross Street Homes from the Public Assistance Committee. Council Chairman M.C. Burkitt said they were anxious that these homes shall be similar in atmosphere to an old-fashioned Victorian family

1948 04 28

The Mayoress of Cambridge (Mrs G.F. Hickson) paid an official visit to the Open Air School in Ascham Road, off Milton road, Cambridge. The school is composed of a number of small, single storey buildings with windows extending nearly to the floor. It comprises classrooms, surgery and shower room, kitchens, dining hall, laundry & practical rooms and the quarters of the headmistress. These are set in attractively designed and well-tended ground surrounded by a playing field and kitchen gardens which the children help to cultivate. The school is for delicate children for whom it is thought that a course of special treatment and open-air life would be beneficial. There are also maladjusted children and a few cases of some form of paralysis

1948 05 12

Sir - "In reply to a gaily-coloured invitation to have my eight-month old daughter immunised from diphtheria, free of charge, I took her to the Auckland Road Clinic, Cambridge. I had experience of this clinic during the war as an ambulance driver. What I found horrified me. I found makeshift surroundings completely unsuited and of dubious cleanliness and that instead of the babies being isolated at this special time the room was occupied by 20 or 30 school children, some with scabs on their faces, some with colds, some hardly clean, all waiting for treatment. I waited for half an hour from the time of my appointment and as the doctor had not yet arrived I decided not to risk the baby's health any longer in such an environment and went home. If we are to have any kind of National Health Service that will work this kind of thing will have to stop" - Margaret Phillips

1948 05 12

The extremely vexed question of whether or not films, and particularly American pictures, were harmful to children was raised at a Summer School at Homerton College. Mrs H.A. Adeane, one of the magistrates on the Juvenile Panel gets first hand observation of the children in trouble passing through the courts. She considered that certain American films, of a low standard of morality might have an indirect effect and that over-sexed pictures were probably bad for the adolescent

1948 09 11

When the East Road Boys' Club reopens in its new premises behind the St John's Mission Church in Wellington Street, Cambridge, another year of really constructive work by its members will have begun. This club has proved what great feats can be accomplished when a team of boys learn to work together and understand their responsibilities to the community and club. The boys' ages range from 14 to 18 and their programme is designed to create a balance in their physical, spiritual and mental development. During the past year, for example, they won the Pointer Cup for boxing. It is run entirely by voluntary effort and has a membership of 100 boys c48 09 11

1948 11 22

A very important visitor who every child in Cambridge welcomes with joy, arrived on Saturday. He was none other than Santa Claus. He arrived from Toytown with a well-filled sack to deal with the seasonal requirements of the boys and girls. He was given a royal welcome. There were several hundred children of all ages ranging from tiny tots carried by their mothers, waiting in a state of great expectancy, at his destination, Mitcham's, Chesterton Road. Cheers from waiting children heralded the arrival of the smiling, rosy cheeked Santa and a knot gathered round and followed, Pied-piper fashion, to the foot of the ladder he had to climb up to the chimney before he disappeared down the chimney into Santa's Nurseryland where he will be in residence till Christmas

1948 12 20

Replacing the traditional sound of sleigh bells which usually heralds the arrival of Father Christmas was the roar of an aeroplane engine when the white-bearded, red-robed old gentleman landed at Marshall's airport to attend a Christmas party being held there for children of the reserves on the station. Signalled in by coloured flares the Proctor aircraft circled round the airfield and taxied on to runway where the kiddies were eagerly awaiting him

1948 12 28

Nearly 800 children crowded into the Rex Ballroom to take part in one of Cambridge's gayest Christmas parties. Santa Claus, ice-cream, "pop", cream cakes, novelties, lucky dips and games, all played a part in making this a real children's party. There was also a conjuring show put on by Bartini, as well as a Punch and Judy show by Fred Cross and a cabaret by the Barbara Leader School of Dancing

1948 12 29

Cambridge children have rarely been so well catered for with pantomime as they are this year, with two. It seems an excellent idea as it gives a better chance of getting a seat at either one or other. The New Theatre, with "Red Riding Hood" have gone out for a traditional production whereas at the Arts Theatre V.C. Clinton Baddeley's "Cinderella" strikes something of a new note, with the accent on charm, colour and original music.

1949 04 26

Sweets. That seems to have been the word on everyone's lips over the weekend and Cambridge people have been rushing madly to see what they can buy. Once again the familiar war-time queues have reappeared and grown-ups, heedless of the Ministry of Food request to let the children buy first, have been swarming to the shops. Some of the shops opened on Sunday with young children who have never known the experience of being able to buy sweets without having to hand over coupons being prominent among the crowds

1949 05 16

"There are many cases where young fellows seems to have no moral sense whatever. I always through the proper thing was to bring up children to respect other people's property and to realise the law must be obeyed. Nowadays they seem to think that they can break into people's houses, put them in terror, rob them of their things and then say 'I am very sorry. This is merely an escapade'. I am not at all sure the right source is not to send them right away at the start for a long period. Thus other people might realise these are not pranks but serious and moral offences", said the Recorder of Cambridge when two youths pleaded guilty to burglary, having stolen a quantity of chocolate, a wallet and £5.17s.6d in money

1949 06 23

The fact that two families had to be rehoused owing to the direct harm done children through being in the proximity of a slaughterhouse was mentioned at the meeting of the Cambridge National Council of Women. Three children in one family have been recommended for the Open Air School as they were in a nervous condition, entirely due to being near a slaughterhouse. They expressed "grave concern" at the council's decision to renew the slaughterhouse licence in Fitzroy Street, which was in a congested residential area & urged the council to provide a municipal abattoir with the most modern hygienic equipment for the humane slaughter of animals, situated away from a residential district.

1949 07 12

Sir - On 2nd July two Hornet aircraft flew over King's College in perfect visibility at a height of well below 200 feet. My two children were very badly frightened indeed. I feel certain that even at the phenomenal speed of 400 mph in a somewhat out-of-date aircraft, a pilot should be able to avoid the centre of a town the size of Cambridge. There are some parents who have flown in aircraft, and their children too, and they have even been bombed by them. The curious fact is that young children are still scared to death of low-flying aircraft – Edward Leigh # c.26.1

1949 10 12

Another step in the plan to provide nursery schools throughout Cambridge has been taken in the opening of the new nursery school at Cherry Hinton. Priority is given to the children of mothers who are working or are ill and although it is a town school it has a strong local bias. It is ideally situated on the ground floor of Cherry Hinton Hall. The house was acquired by Cambridge council in the 1930s and has subsequently been used as a youth hostel and a maternity and child welfare clinic.

1949 10 26

To most people our Chief Constable, (Mr B.N. Bebbington) is known only in his professional capacity of guardian of the peace in Cambridge. To many children, however, he is known as a writer of children's' stories. He has published several books and in one of them portrayed animals in a police court scene. The newly published annual "The Christmas Stocking" includes a short tale from his pen and also stories by such writers of distinction as Enid Blyton, Richmal Crompton and Dorothy Sayers.

1949 11 19

Cambridge magistrates were told the story of how two baby girls – aged one and 2½ were found on their own late at night in a room which was "filthy" and "evil-smelling. An NSPCC said one bedroom was completely empty. In the other there was a bare floor and mattress. A new cot in the room had obviously never been used. Downstairs the house was untidy and smelt. The few pieces of crockery in the house were all dirty. A small bowl used for bathing the children was much too small and was kept in the yard in a filthy condition. There was no coal or other means of heating in the house.

1949 12 05

Tenants of Gothic street and Doric street have sent a petition to Cambridge health department protesting "most vigorously against the prolonged occupation of these slum dilapidated properties, seriously affecting the health, particularly of the children forced to live under absolutely shocking conditions, which foster ill health and the spread of disease; being vermin-infested and in a very bad state of disrepair, some without kitchen fires, others with collapsed interior walls and ceilings". They

recall that the properties were actually purchased by the council before the war for demolition. Tenants were told this accommodation was only temporary some one to three years ago

1950

1950 01 27

Dr Alex Wood, chairman of Cambridge housing committee, spoke of the terrible need for housing. He quoted one case where a woman, her sister and one child were sleeping on the landing of a house, where her parents were sleeping in the only bedroom. The husband was not able to sleep in the house at all. There was another child expected for which there was no room at all. "That kind of case is fairly common", he said. There was no option but to use requisitioned or old property such as houses in Saxon Street

1950 05 08

The Co-operative Exhibition on Midsummer Common, Cambridge, is a housewife's dream. Here she will find most things from a nailbrush, (made on the spot) to a really "super" piano priced at over £200. Most of the children's interests centred on the sweet stand, where there was an automatic machine wrapping confectionery. If only the youngsters had had all the coupons they obviously longed for, I am sure they would have quickly undone all the good work the machine was doing at such high speed!

1950 05 10

Never has there been a time when so much was done for the health of the nation's children. The latest development in the drive towards positive health is a scheme to X-ray the children in the Cambridge secondary schools. The X-rays are carried out by the Mass Radiography Unit and some 3,600 children will be examined. At the moment, only children of 11 upwards are to be X-rayed, due to the fact that their school-leaving is more imminent than the younger ones

1950 06 26

Current tendencies towards over-planning and regimentation were criticised by the Master of Downing College at Leys School speechday. "I cannot but be disturbed at the modern tendency for intensive planning and indeed super planning where we have ever-growing hedges of regulations and a tendency to judge men by their records in a card index. Would the prize-winners of the future have their careers chosen for them by a civil servant – helped by a psychiatrist – who would study the child's records from his first protest to the world to his leaving school. One day frustrated middle-age would rise in revolt and consign the super-planners to a gigantic bonfire of their own plans", he said.

1950 11 21

Several hundred children stood in Cambridge streets on Saturday gazing with admiring and speculative eyes at Father Christmas as he rode round the town in a lorry from the New Theatre to Mitcham's Corner, where he eventually took up residence at the annual toy fair. Many children ran after him for varying distances, but none was so energetic as one youngster dressed in green who ran after the procession from start to finish – a total time of some 50 minutes. When the procession reached Mitcham's Corner, Father Christmas did his traditional disappearing act of climbing down the chimney of the store.

1950 12 18

Dennis Collins and his wife, Jean, are two local people making good in the entertainment world and much in demand at parties. Dennis got a job with the Hunstanton council to act, with Jean, as universal uncle and aunt to children on holiday there. Throughout the summer they were to be found on the sands, running children's games, skipping contests and sand-design competitions. Dennis taught himself conjuring with the aid of a couple of books borrowed from the Cambridge public library and is now a member of the Magic Circle. Jean, who was a pupil of the Mackenzie School of Music and Drama, played the piano and sang.

1951 01 04

A social worker for the Cambridge Association for the Care of Girls spoke to members of the Cambridge Inner Wheel. She said her work involved giving talks to girls in senior schools. In addition to questions about sex they would ask whether 10 was too young to start going out with boys and whether they should allow boys to kiss them on a first date. One lady said: "there is too much sex education given to children nowadays. Girls of my day were mostly ignorant of those things, yet they have succeeded in making a success of their marriages"

1951 01 09

When the children of the Morley Memorial School returned after the Christmas holidays, they found a white-coated civilian on duty to see them safely across the road. He is Cambridge's first traffic warden appointed in the interests of child safety and to help relieve the police. The idea of civilian traffic wardens has been tried successfully in other towns. The scheme has the approval of the police who give the wardens a course of instruction in their duties

1951 04 18

Cambridge's first woman traffic warden takes up her duties on Monday, to help children cross the road before and after school. She is Mrs M.E. Vail who will be attached to St Luke's school, Victoria Road. The idea of having civilian traffic wardens was taken up in January when the education committee appointed a man for Morley memorial school; a second started at St Barnabas school this week.

1951 05 18

The Chief Constable told the NSPCC that he had been surprised to find that there existed some bad slum areas in Cambridge. He felt that many cases of bad conditions resulted from the mental condition of the parents. The police found that a number of people came into their hands as a result of neglect in their childhood days. The chairman stressed the danger of leaving children alone, especially at night and thanked the women police officers for their co-operation

1951 05 30

There are about 170 children under the care of the County Council's Children Committee. The majority are children who have been deprived of a normal home life. Some are orphans or illegitimate. Others have been abandoned by their parents or found by a court to be in need of care or protection. The aim of the committee is to find a substitute, but real home to take the place of the one from which the child has been deprived. Their four children's homes are overcrowded and full to saturation point. They should accommodate 16 children but are housing 23

1951 08 23

Over 30 young Austrian and Germans smiled through tears as the train carried them away from Cambridge. They had been living in English homes as the guests of the Cambridge Co-operative Society, the Woodcraft Folk Group and many open-handed hosts who responded to a letter published in the C.D.N. The Co-op Society entertained over a hundred children at the Co-operative Hall. Recordings of the Tyrolean songs and singing dances were made and a German-born waitress looked after them.

1951 09 14

Cambridgeshire Education Committee has decided to allow schoolchildren to help in the corn harvest and the forthcoming potato harvest "as a last resort and where acute local need justifies its use". They are prepared to grant up to 10 half-days to children of 14 years of age and over. It seems likely "acute local need" will arise for the position of Cambridgeshire's harvest is now becoming serious. Most of the spring-grown barley and wheat is not yet fit for harvesting due to the six week's late drilling and the cold, wet weather of August. One disturbing feature is the increasing signs of blight in the potato crop.

1951 09 24

Mr & Mrs Dennis Collins of Cambridge, who are “Uncle Dennis” and “Auntie Jean” to thousands of holiday making children have just returned from their second season at Hunstanton where they have the job of keeping the children happy so that mother and father can go off on their own. During the twelve-week season they have given their show of magic, marionettes and all the entertainments the kiddies like to 15,000 children. They are also a temporary mother and father and Jean seldom goes out shopping without a trail of children behind her.

1951 10 02

Members of a new company of the Boys’ Brigade were seen in their first church parade and march past in the Newmarket Road area of Cambridge on Sunday. The company, that of Ditton Fields Free Church, is at the beginning of its career; it is hoped that by October there will be a sufficient number of recruits to justify the company being fully enrolled in the Brigade. It was augmented by the 5th Cambridge Company which has been established more than 50 years. Mr H.A. Twinn told them: “You must have discipline if you are to do anything at all”. Some boys organisations had been compared with Hitler’s youth movement but their members were trained in a helpful and Christian way of life, he said 51 10 02

1952 01 21

The County council was told “the true story of Miss Blank”, a displaced person whose two children are being maintained at the Primrose Croft Home, at a cost to ratepayers of nearly £14 a week – and who informed the matron that there is another baby coming along. “She may have been told those homes cannot be worked economically if they are not kept full and has taken steps in that direction. She has landed in this country and kept up the supply of children to Primrose Croft. There is nothing we can do about it” they were informed.

1952 02 01

Cyclists who carry children, p4

1952 03 06

Magistrates were told that police had visited a Cambridge cinema while a category ‘A’ film was being shown and found a total of 42 children in the first five rows who were unaccompanied by adults. The average age was 12 and there was one child about six. The manager said it was a difficult business to keep them out. The children were undoubtedly there but when they had paid to go in they were accompanied by a person over 16. He was fined £15 and told if there were further cases the licence would be withdrawn.

1952 05 12

Nearly 100 children walked calmly out of Richmond Road Infants’ School, Cambridge when fire swept the 50-foot-long school roof. The school caretaker, Mrs E.N. Mansfield said: “The children were perfectly calm and they walked out with their little coats so smartly”. The headmistress (Miss W.E. Chandler) and her assistant, Miss K.E. Buck took their pupils to a nearby recreation ground while firemen tackled the blaze on the tiles. The Chief Constable, Mr B.N. Bebbington, was amongst a crowd of willing helpers who moved school furniture and equipment to safety

1952 07 30

In the big tree-girt grass playing field of Chesterton Preparatory School the young folk entertained their elders to tea and dancing, giving a whole profusion of English Maypole Dances. I asked Miss Dorothy Hodder, the Headmistress, how they were able to train youngsters to such a pitch of excellence that they never pause or falter, and all without commands or words of instruction. She said the children (and there were no less than 64 of them) very largely teach themselves. It made a charming picture to see the tiny tots skipping so gaily round the Maypole in orderly rhythm with their brightly coloured ribands. They were obviously enjoying every second of it.

1952 08 07

Cambridge Bonniest Baby Exhibition was held in the Guildhall and attracted a fairly substantial entry of 99. The judges were not judging in the usual way, weighing the children, examining limbs etc but were looking for the bonniest baby of the respective classes. In fact it was rather a babies' beauty competition. Prizewinners were: six months and under – Joy Carter, seven-twelve months – Linda Moxon, 13-18 months – Martin Carter, 19 months to two years – Anna Taylor. Winning twins were Dorothy Anne and Mary Elizabeth Arbon of Harston.

1952 12 23

The first children's Christmas party given by Pye Ltd since the war was held in the Canteen, St Andrew's Road, Cambridge, when more than 450 children of employees thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After tea they were entertained by the antics of Mr Shipp and then watched a marionette show presented by the Frith family of Histon. This is a real family show with son Roger, 13, manipulating the puppets, Mrs Lilian Frith making off-stage sounds and her husband Oliver providing the voices. Then Father Christmas arrived with sacks of presents and the children went home – the younger ones tired but happy

1953 01 09

After a six-months stay in Cambridge 16 excited Greek children left for their own country. They came here from war-shattered Greece in the summer of last year and stayed with families under the auspices of the Cambridge Committee of International Help for Children. They met and played with English children, they attended school and as the months passed their frail forms filled out and they became normal healthy children

1953 06 08

The Shirley School was the scene of festivities on two days when 900 children of Old Chesterton gathered for their Coronation party. There was a fancy dress and vehicle parade and a film show, but the highlight was tea in the tastefully-decorated dining room. The tables were laden with sandwiches, sausage rolls, trifles, fruit-jellies and fancy cakes. Both soft drinks and tea were available. Need it be said that all these goodies disappeared rapidly.

1953 06 16

In spite of dull conditions members of the firm of Messrs Kerridge Ltd and their children turned up in force for the Coronation sports and party on Pye Sports Ground. A parade was led by the Boys Brigade band and there was a whole range of side-shows which were free to the children with roundabouts for the toddlers, real ponies and miniature train rides. After tea 'Len' Palmer and his accordion was supported by his three charming daughters in delightful sketches and dances, culminating with the youngest in Coronation robes and a crown.

1953 06 17

At Ditton Fields Coronation Party 228 children wearing fancy hats and carrying flags and streamers marched to Priory School where they sat down to a grand tea catered by Messrs Hawkins Ltd. Afterwards there were musical games and sing-song and a fancy-dress competition whilst entertainment by Mr F. Cross kept the party spellbound. At the end each child was presented with a small souvenir, sweets and ices.

1954 03 19

Closing Young Street nursery in Cambridge would be disastrous for the children, and mothers unable to go out to work would have to go on National Assistance, city councillors were told. But running costs were 9s.6d. a day for each child and there was a private day nursery in St Matthew's parish room which would cost mothers 12s.6d. a week. Working mothers could put a child there and still reap a handsome profit from their week's work. Coun Mrs Henn said she had spent some time at the nursery and referred to people she labelled 'Communists and those with foreign accents'. "If ratepayers have to pay to provide trained staff to look after toddlers in perfect health we are suffering from a flight into unreality", she said.

1954 04 17

A new experiment in children's entertainment, the Roy Rogers Riders Club, is being launched at the Rex Cinema, Cambridge. It will be among the first British cinemas to use the scheme which provides first-rate Saturday morning entertainment for the under 16s. The charge for enrolment and a badge is 1s and admission to the shows is 6d per week. The clubs are under the direct guidance of Roy Rogers himself who formulated the club rules; its objects are to ensure that young cinemagoers see only the most wholesome entertainment and meetings begin with a special film of Roy Rogers saying the "cowboy's prayer.

1954 07 10

The Robin Fellowship is now 25 years old. It was started as the children's organisation of the 'Cambridge Independent Press and Chronicle' and was carried on for many years by Mr Morley Stuart whose enthusiasm made it an instant success; in the first six months 4,300 children were enrolled. It endowed the Robin Cot at Addenbrooke's Hospital – the result of a stream of coins that has flowed every since into the coffers of the Fund which has paid out over £4,800 to scores of different charities and good causes. The first member was Sybil Rayner of Cherryhinton Road as it was her who suggested the name; there are now 17,026.

1954 10 29 c

The Cambridge Adventure Playgrounds Committee was launched. Children spent too much time idle. There should be a revival of interest in playgrounds which were what the children really wanted and not what the parents thought they should have. The space should be used to best advantage, but there was trouble with the planners who, with their passion for tidiness, ironed out the places where the children could play and planted geranium beds there instead. Children needed an indefinite number of different types of playground for there was a variety of things they wanted to do, from free activity to pulling things down and building them up again.

1955 11 17

Cambridge Boys Club in Wellington Street is meeting a real need since it opened six years ago. Councillor Burkitt said the first time he went there the noise was terrific, there was not a single pane left unbroken and the club was very disorderly. Now it was well-run and had established a tradition of decent behaviour and loyalty; the boys took pride in making it a credit to the community 55 11 17a

1956 12 15

A thousand schoolchildren were invited to look round the Cavendish Laboratory and some of the things they saw hidden away behind the unimposing walls made laboratories in the 'Frankenstein' films look like primary school games rooms. Scientists can send a million-volt electrical flash cracking like a rifle shot across a hall at the press of a button or reproduce brilliant electrical 'thunderstorms'. But there were no flying saucers. 56 12 15

1957 07 01

Last year an Adventure Playground started on a patch of rough ground bordering Newmarket Road. Cambridge council gave a generous quantity of odd timber, other people provided tree trunks and old motor tyres. But it all vanished during the winter. Now they are seeking more together with an old motor car chassis, corrugated iron, bricks, pick-axes, hammers, nails and other lumber. They also need a strong lockable shed to keep it in. 57 07 01

1957 07 22

The Adventure Playground off Newmarket Road does not seem to be wanted, judging from a lively meeting. Residents said was being used by hooligans who broke up the equipment and should be moved far from homes where a nuisance is likely to be caused. They called for the area to be used as tennis courts instead. 57 07 22 & 22a

1957 09 13

Residents living near the 'adventure playground' on the Whitehill Estate, Newmarket Road have protested against the things that happen there. Bad language – really filthy barrack room stuff – is a constant annoyance, noise is at a high level with children beating on drums and fuel tanks and the staccato bark of the old motor cycle housed on the ground, especially when it is running without a silencer. It is a place where parents of decent families prevent their children from going, attracts the wrong type of youth and encourages the formation of gangs. 57 09 13a & b

1958 07 09

Netherhall School governors are to be asked to reconsider the sale of ice cream during break periods. Coun. Kedge was in favour of the sale of ice cream and added that at some schools ice cream carts waited outside to sell to the children. But it might introduce a class distinction in that some children would be able to buy ices and others would not. 58 07 09

1957 08 14

Scouts from 84 parts of the world attended an International Conference in Cambridge, following the World Jubilee Jamboree. The bright blue caps from Finland, flowing white kaffiyeh and agal from Lebanon, broad hats from Mexico and the red tarboush from Morocco were a colourful sight in the Guildhall where they were welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor B. White 57 08 14a & 17 [Misc.4.5, 1.13]

1957 10 13

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1957 10 19

Adventure playground abandoned – 57 10 19

1958 02 02

Cambridge Boys Club in St John's Hall, Wellington Street is flourishing under the leadership of Chris Silcock. Despite the volume of noise the youngsters are not idle. In well-equipped workshops they are taught woodwork and metalwork while the more artistic are instructed in modelling and painting. There is table tennis, P.T. and boxing along with photography, chess, talks and trips abroad. Parents attend on open nights when the fun is shared by all 58 02 22

1958 09 01

Dr Henry Roderick came to Cambridge as police surgeon and surgeon to the post office and was present at the last hanging at the old Cambridge Gaol. He came particularly interested in the treatment of crippled children in the 1920s though some parents refused to have their children treated by what were then new methods of surgery. He started the first orthopaedic out-patients sessions at Addenbrooke's Hospital together with country clinics where nurses visited people in their own homes. 58 09 01 & a 58 08 30c

1958 09 13

An Adventure Playground run at Newmarket Road attracted 60 youngsters. There was bad language at first, destructive activities by local roughs created great difficulties and neighbours objected. The children tunnelled, built huts and dens, made swings of ropes and tyres, lit fires and roasted potatoes. They also made boats, guns, swords and a puppet theatre. Some put an old motor cycle into running order. 58 09 13 & a

1958 10 24

A new Occupation Centre for mentally handicapped children was opened at Coldham's Lane to provide daytime accommodation for the youngsters and give their parents a respite from their responsibilities. A small centre had opened in Hope Street in 1929 under the old Voluntary Mental Welfare Association. After the County Council took over responsibility in 1948 it moved to St Giles' parish rooms at Pound Hill. 58 10 24a & b

1958 12 08

Coleridge Girls' School celebrated its 21st anniversary; the girls were now much more lively, efficient and adaptable than those of 21 years ago headmistress Miss D.M. Howlett said. Then there had been no playing field and the school children had worn far too many clothes. Boredom was the main cause of juvenile crime so they had instituted leisure time work for the girls evacuated from Islington during the war years. The idea had been that children in modern schools were only intelligent enough to read picture books but in both academic and practical work Coleridge was achieving good results. 58 10 08a

1959 02 26

Ice cream is to be sold during break periods at Netherhall Secondary Modern Schools in spite of the objections from the Chief Medical Officer. He said that children nowadays were overfed and strongly deprecated the habit of eating between meals. It was undesirable that some children should watch others eating luxuries which they could not afford. Councillor Mrs Morse also felt it was bad for children to eat ice cream (which would be taken in addition to milk) as it was a filling food and would spoil their appetite for their midday meal. But other members of the committee decided that the school Governors should be trusted to make the decision. 59 02 26a

1959 06 15

Roseford Hall, on the new Arbury Estate, is an extension of the activities of the Christian Brethren of Panton Hall. It has well equipped classrooms, all of which will be needed, for already over 200 children are enrolled for the Sunday School. An invitation to local residents to inspect the new building was met by such a large response that there was 'standing room only'. 59 06 15

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date

1960

1960 01 06

Cambridge Boys club Wellington St, formerly East Road Boys Club; borough took over 1949, bought Wellington Street St Johns Hall 1951, workshops etc 1958; to close 1960 due decreasing membership [1.2]

1960 02 17

Cambridge Children's Playground Association was started after builders complained about children playing destructively with their building materials and when it was noticed that the ordinary playgrounds did not attract many youngsters. The first experimental playground was in Newmarket Road and now one may be formed on the Arbury Estate. There are hundreds of children who have already formed the habit of playing in the streets and in the shopping precinct while the estate has waited six years for a playground. The spinney at Cherry Hinton would also be an ideal site for an 'adventure playground' 60 02 17

1960 03 18

Ninety small boys and girls flock to Rock Road library every Thursday to hear stories read by Miss Kathleen Asbery, the recently-appointed children's librarian. She visited a school's youngest infant class and when told she was from the library one small girl asked "Is she here because we have some books missing?" "It seems awful that children should think of librarians as ogres who stand behind counters, stamp books and charge them a penny for a late-returned item", Kate said 60 03 18 The roller skating rink at Cambridge Corn Exchange attracts enthusiasts from a large area. Saturday morning is the children's morning and with its yards of bunting, the otherwise sombre building has a

carnival air. From the very young to the really quite grown up they were tumbling about, wobbling precariously round the perimeter or pirouetting stylishly in the centre. Some of the girls swooped round in short costumes while the run-of-the-mill dressed for the rough and tumble in trousers. Skaters pay one shilling and sixpence (8p) which includes the hire of skates. The rink is leased to J.W. Harris, who also has one at Hunstanton, and is managed by Mr Lloyd Worth who has been a professional in the skating business for 53 years. 60 09 09c

1960 05 17

East Barnwell's new scout hall opened – 60 05 17

1961 01 13

Children's Relief International, based in Harvey Road, have already organised a holiday camp for 60 displaced children in Germany. Now they hope to build a large modern house in a village near Cambridge where refugee children from all over Europe would be brought up as a large 'family' under the care of house parents. They would make friends and share some of their delightful facilities with local English children. Madingley would be an ideal spot for such a house. 61 01 13

1960 07 07

In order to rescue the Arbury Estate from the 'grave danger of creating deserts of asphalt' a playground should be constructed on a site between Alex Wood Road and Mere Way. It would have a mound of earth 15 feet high and an open flat area providing scope for ball games, tricycles, marbles etc with a play park equipped with vertical and horizontal tree trunks. The ground is to be made deliberately uneven with mounds and hollows for imaginative play. But swings have been condemned as dangerous and expensive 60 07 07

1960 09 20

Freebooters Coffee Bar & club opens Wellington Street by student Ridley Hall, no rules, appeal £20,000, 400 members 1961, closed down, student resigned, decline membership, financial difficulties 1963

1960 10 14

The Freebooters Coffee Bar and Club in Wellington Street was set up through the determination of John Ewen, a theological student at Ridley Hall. It has full-sized billiard & table-tennis tables & a dart board. But there are no rules. Soon youngsters banned from other coffee bars because of damage started to drop in. A key concern was motor cycles but plans are under way for a maintenance shop and a 'scramble'. They had teething troubles: the record player was stolen and all the records taken, but they were brought back and now various sports clubs have been formed. 60 10 14

1961 04 13

'Mr Cliff Richard and his associates have done more to continue some children's musical education than the whole world of music teacher and administrators', Ludovic Stewart, the County Music Adviser says in his annual report. Music teachers are in short supply and pupils find solace in the sort of music they can teach themselves with the help of a shilling guitar tutor and some pop records. Rock-and-roll music depends upon amplification and is expensive but some outlay on guitars would benefit pupils, he recommends. Skiffle groups provide an ideal club activity and should be encouraged by head teachers 61 04 13a

1961 04 18

Sir – Arbury Estate is already overcrowded and is alive with children for whose needs only the minimum facilities have been provided. Already some 730 residents have signed a petition calling for a number of open spaces for youngsters. Now the council is planning to build two blocks of flats on land at the top of Alex Wood Road. These should be resited to give a park for mothers with their prams and old people to sit in the sun with perhaps a bowling green like the one on the Whitehill estate – P.W. Cadogan, Arbury Estate Children's Playgrounds Committee 61 04 18

1961 05 02

The Lady Adrian special school in Courtney Way had taken a long time because children who found it difficult to learn did not arouse as much sympathy with the public as those who were either deaf or blind. But they needed this type of school to provide educational facilities where their self-confidence could be built up, Lady Hester Adrian said as she officially opened the building 61 05 02

1961 07 13

Cambridge schoolchildren have been reported by the national Press as 'uncontrollable, swarming, kicking, screaming horrors'. They are said to have caused £3,000 work of damage to a Centurion tank on Midsummer Common as part of a mobile Army exhibition. But the tank crew say it is physically impossible for a young boy to dismantle and remove a gun-sight, the expensive radio was not tampered with in any way, the periscope could have been damaged by anybody and the starter motor, reputed to have been burnt out when used by one of the children, actually went wrong when the crew tried to take the tank off the transporter 61 07 13b

1962 02 28

Bunny Hop Creche for children of parents attending Addenbrooke's Hospital – 62 02 28

1962 03 26

The Central Youth Centre in York Street has closed after twelve years. The farewell dance, with music provided by Johnny Cullen and his Dawnbreakers, was a great success. The hard core members were quite subdued and seemed really sorry that the club was having to close. But youth leader L. Casey is leaving and the lease is expiring. However there are ample facilities for those who wish to join other clubs. 62 03 26

1962 11 15

The Freebooters Club opened two years ago in an old converted church hall in Wellington Street, Cambridge, which is damp, dingy and has dry-rot. At that time school-leavers wishing to join youth clubs had to join in formal activity. Not wishing to do this they drifted to the coffee bars on the outskirts of the city. When these closed they were left with nowhere to go. The Freebooters filled the gap with a coffee bar and juke box. Originally it was a 'toughs' club but times have changed. Now it will be modernised with a dance hall, tv lounge, snooker room and motor cycle repairs workshop 62 11 15f

1962 12 31

Holiday lectures for children – 63 12 31b

1963 01 02

The Freebooters Club has closed down. It was started in Wellington Street for youngsters who could not fit into the regular pattern of youth activities. It had done good work and some of the young people who had been 'unclubable' had settled down in other established youth clubs. But there has been a recent heavy decline in club membership and an adverse financial position had been reached. John Ewan, the University theological student who started it two years ago, was thanked for his inspiration in forming the club and wholehearted devotion to the task of running it. 63 01 02

1964 03 20

Clara Rackham recalled conditions in the Cambridge workhouse when she was a Guardian. There were a number of children with their parents. These were either illegitimate or the families of trams who took refuge in the winter and took to the roads again in Summer. The children and babies were cared for by the best of the inmates. Orphans were boarded out in foster homes. Aged people sat in their crowded day-rooms, clothed in their workhouse garb, allowed out on alternate Mondays. Dinner three days a week was a plate of pea soup and hunk of bread. 64 03 20a

1964 05 08

Every Saturday children start arriving at the Victoria and Central cinemas for the matinee performances. Many are brought by their mothers who are grateful for the chance to do the weekend shopping without them. Before the film starts they sing 'We are Minors of the A.B.C.' to the tune of 'Blaze Away'. There's always one cartoon like Tweetie Pie, then the serial in which the action is fast and furious. It's followed by a short comedy film, then a full-length feature with plenty of action, usually made by the Children's Film Foundation 64 05 08

1964 11 19

At Coleridge Youth Centre the hall vibrated with the sound of the latest pop tune. Outside the air was filled with the sound of motor cycles and scooters as more youths arrived. Youngsters were playing cards, table tennis and billiards, in one corner a group of girls sat talking. In between dances they sauntered to the canteen for a cup of coffee, a Coco Cola and a glance at the pile of magazines specially chosen for young people. It has a current membership of 300 of which two-thirds are boys. The future will depend on a comprehensive new youth centre to be started shortly at St Matthew's Piece 64 11 19c

1964 12 02

The twin estates of South Arbury and King's Hedges has hardly any social amenities with just one youth club which runs one evening a week in the Manor School canteen. Now Arbury Amenities Association has called for the development of a community centre and recreation ground on the corner of Campkin and Arbury Roads. There is always the danger of young children getting involved in accidents if they have to play in the roadway, especially as heavy lorries use it on their way to building sites. The licensee of the Snowcat public house says there are several hundred teenagers who have nowhere to go in the evenings except city centre dance halls. 64 12 02b

1964 12 03

East Barnwell Youth Club meets in specially-built premises. The décor of the hall is purposeful and modern, the coffee bar is well patronised and the quiet room provides seclusion for a chat away from the noise of table tennis balls and record player. Activities include chess, draughts and billiards. But girls complain the boys won't dance unless organised dance nights are arranged. Members are working on a pantomime which they plan to give in children's homes. They are also collecting silver paper to purchase guide dogs for the blind. 64 12 03

1964 12 09

The Sunday night 'Drop-in' Youth Club in Wellington Street provides somewhere for youngsters to get to know each other. There is table tennis, snooker and badminton together with a coffee bar and a juke box providing music for dancing. Some girls complain that boys will not ask them to dance but the boys say if they do they get stared at. They come because they are bored, there is nothing to do, nowhere else to go. Many houses are so small they can get little privacy and parents may lose their peace because a radio or record player is blaring, they say. But it's sad they cannot find companionship and interests at home, just one night a week. 64 12 09

1965 01 21

Victoria Road Congregational Youth Club attracts 50 15-21 year-olds each week. There is a large hall and they can dance or play games, talk and drink coffee. The highlights include punt parties, sausage sizzles and barbecues. In spite of the austerity of the hall there is a genuine air of friendliness. Organisers have tried to introduce more serious activities but they have not proved too popular. The evenings end with a short epilogue, though the influence of religion is not particularly stressed. 65 01 21a

1965 02 04

Sturton Street Methodist Church youth club has a membership of 50. Meeting on Friday evenings their activities are a little restricted but they offer a fairly varied programme. Most activities take place in the church hall and the adjoining kitchen is used for light refreshments. But in addition to the social

and recreational aims, they also have an educational and spiritual element with talks, film shows and a discussion on topics of interest. A short lesson, hymn and prayer is given at the end. A youth fellowship meets on Sunday afternoons for bible study 65 02 04b

1965 03 24

Cambridge Sea Cadet unit was formed in 1941 to provide healthy recreation for young citizens. They used school premises until 1950 when Nissen huts were made available on the riverside at Halingway. But these are now altogether untenable and a new headquarters, "T.S. Ganges" built complete with quarter deck, lecture rooms, canteen and a wireless office. 65 03 24b Sea Cadet new HQ to open – history - 65 08 28a

1965 04 26

Guide headquarters in Perne Road opened by Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell – 65 04 26a

1965 05 21

Work to start on new youth club, St Matthew's Piece; reviews youth club provision – 65 05 21b

1965 07 14

Mill Road youth club - police move on [1.7]

1966 04 27

Adventure playgrounds needed; survey of existing facilities at Coleridge, Lammas Land – 66 04 27a

1967 12 08

Howard Mallet Youth Club to meet needs of new generation of young folk - 67 12 08, 08a

1969 02 13

W. Heffer & sons open new children's bookshop in Trinity Street, plan to move main shop from Petty Cury – 69 02 13

1970

1970 07 10

Hope Tebbutt started first nursery school in Cambridge 45 years ago, Stagsholt Nursery School Gresham Road for poorer areas; was 15 years before another – 70 07 10

1970 08 13

Children's Relief International investigation – 70 08 13 & a

1971 04 05

Dr Barnardo's home in Fitzwilliam Road to close after 20 years; only five children remain – 71 04 05

1973 04 05

Shoplifting amongst schoolchildren is a "sport" which is growing, said to the President of Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, Mr Jack Newbon. "It is not something that just happens. It is calculated. They come down to town from school having already planned on what they intend to do, and then pilfer goods. People who say that this is something that happens on the spur of the moment do not know about the calculation that goes into this sort of thing", he declared

1974 08 02

The 1¼ acre Arbury adventure playground looks like a Wild West stockade, with tall telegraph poles visible above the high fencing and a tattered union jack blowing in the breeze. It lies on the northern edge of the housing estate. As many as 250 children are likely to be there during the school holidays. It was parents on the estate who got the venture going and raised the initial money. Fencing alone cost more than £1,000. Since then the city council have helped with grants

1975 01 02

Hundreds of Cambridge secondary school children would be disappointed if their yearly opportunity to hear professional people speak had to be scrapped, Mrs K. Joice Taylor, the secretary of the Cambridge Holiday Lecture Association said. This was a real fear because it was now in debt and no grant money was available to safeguard the event which has become a tradition during the past 12 years. Last year in order to heat the lecture theatre during the fuel crisis, batteries were used. This resulted in a big heating bill.

1975 09 15

Cambridge's 13th scout group officially opened its new headquarters in Romsey Town. In little more than a year they managed to raise the £6,000 needed and get the building constructed on the site of two old scout huts. Some 200 people watched Dr Winifred Nott, the sister of the original Nott brothers who helped establish the group before the first world war, cut the tape and unveil a plaque to mark the official opening c75 09 19

1976 11 10

A proposal to set up nursery and crèche facilities within Cambridge University for the children of its staff and students was "wholly impracticable", dons were told. Parents ought to bear the responsibility for their children, "it was not something for the university or colleges to shoulder". But trades union officials said that Pye's had already provided nursery facilities for their staff. It would provide refreshment and revitalisation & allow women freed from family ties to become workers, students and academics.

1976 12 13

The Cambridge Scouts' shop in Perne Road celebrated 50 years of existence. Known first as the Equipment Store it opened in a rifle range half way up the stairs at the old Grafton Street headquarters on 13th December 1926. The shop's manager, Mr Kenneth North, took over in 1934. He remained when the shop moved temporarily to Russell Street and then to the new Scout headquarters in 1956. Mr John Chambers has been associated with it since he joined as a boy in 1940 & Roger Woollard, Scout leader running the 13th Cambridge Scouts Group, also helps out 76 12 13

1977 05 28

The Mayor of Cambridge, Coun Maurice Garner, has offered to arrange skate-boarding sessions for city children in the Corn Exchange, where the council has a roller skating area, to keep them off the streets and away from the traffic. The new craze is rapidly gaining popularity and already some schools have banned their pupils from practising in the school grounds. For months the Road Safety Committee has expressed concern at the growing practice of skateboarding in the streets. A council report concludes: "As more people join in with the sport there is no doubt that the local authority will be asked to provide skate parks such as are provided in the United States"

1977 07 20

Parents and children said goodbye to Mrs Betty Barrett and Mrs Norah Hudson who have run Cambridge's oldest nursery school, the Cranmer Nursery School in Newnham Lane for many years. Now the Old Oast House which has been rented each weekday morning is being sold by its owners. Their long experience with pre-school children will not be wasted as they plan to give advice and help to someone starting up a new nursery school in another part of Cambridge. They were presented with silver engraved forks in appreciation of their work.

1978 01 05

A plan by a Cambridge businessman to build a skateboard track on a field in Chesterton Fen Road has been turned down by planners. Mr Gordon Cave asked for permission to use one acre of the field but the plan was rejected on the grounds that the site had bad access and is two-thirds of a mile from the nearest bus stop. The majority of users would be schoolchildren, many of them young and unaccompanied, and the road had no footpath. But Coun. Peter King said: "It would be disastrous to

be over-protective where young people are concerned. They are not bothered about a bit of mud or a walk from the bus stop. It would be better to offer a skateboard park here than nowhere”.

Cambridge schoolchildren will soon get their first skateboard park, perhaps two. Cambridge councillors earmarked money to convert hard tennis courts at Romsey and Trumpington with wooden embankments and ramps, but it may not now be possible to do both. They also decided that the former council storeyard off Newmarket Road would be ideal for the building of a large-scale permanent skateboard park. Four commercial firms interested in building a park have approached the council who have agreed to offer the land on lease if the park is built at no cost to the ratepayers

1978 03 21

The new Beehive home interiors centre opened in Cambridge by the Co-operative Society is unique in Britain. With more than 25,000 square feet of space, home interiors are laid out in authentic room settings and the Co-op has gone up-market. There is a four-piece suite which costs a cool £1,000. They hope to supply all the goods on show from the stock carried in the ground-floor warehouse and people will be able to hire roof racks or vans to get it home if their cars won't take it. It has a children's cinema so that parents can leave their children occupied while they discuss furniture with the sales staff.

1978 07 11

King's Hedges junior and infants' schools in Cambridge have closed because of a dysentery outbreak, three weeks after the first pupils went down with the disease. The number of children being kept at home has been rising daily – over 120 children and staff absent yesterday – and it is obvious they can no longer function normally. They may never know where the infection came from, with a changing number of children with the symptoms. If there is just one case in the school the very number of people using the building means it is likely to be passed on repeatedly

1979 05 24

Joy, nervous anticipation and occasionally disappointments are the exciting ingredients of the Cambridge Competitive Festival – highlight of the year for hundreds of schoolchildren. Aspiring actors, orators and dancers jostle for trophies but as each year passes more and more young musicians stay away. Teachers of music feel that the arts aren't helped by a sports day atmosphere. But for many parents and their children it is rewarding to see all those hours of painful practice being given some tangible recognition with a prize and the losers benefit from the expert adjudicators' constructive comments.

1979 07 23

It is the start of an intensive six-week season at the Arbury Adventure Playground. Between 150 and 300 children will daily pour into the enclosure off Wagstaff Close. It is laid out like an outpost of the US Cavalry after the Indians have been. There is a 10-foot-high perimeter stockade, big main gates and a high watch-tower in the middle. In one corner is the livestock, all snuffling, clucking and crowing. On another is 'Venus' an old landing craft looking rather washed up and nearer the middle a large battered playhut. It is not for the fastidious or tidy-minded but it is an excellent place to light fires, cook sausages and potatoes and melt down old cola cans into aluminium ingots.

1980

1980 01 29

The ZX80 personal computer was launched by Sinclair research of Cambridge. It can be used in the office, the factory and the home. The creator, Mr Clive Sinclair, says any child of 10 with normal arithmetical ability could use it. The new machine is smaller than anything of comparable performance and also four times as cheap. In kit form it costs £77.95 and a completely-built version will be available in March at £99.95. It can be plugged into an ordinary television set or standard computers. The 'software' can be operated through a standard tape cassette and it comes with a 130-page, step-by-step manual. 80 01 29

1981 03 12

The first refuge for battered women opened in Cambridge three years ago; about 285 women and 450 children have been through its doors. At one stage 10 women and 20 children were sharing the three-storey five-bedroomed house. It can take six months before alternative accommodation can be found and some women, depressed by the long wait are driven into returning home. Now a second refuge has been provided to relieve some of the pressure. 81 03 12a

1981 11 26

The early electronic portable games were big, bright, brash boxes for children that made silly noises. Now they include the internationally best-selling Electronic Master Mind. Many of the TV games use cassettes providing some striking and original computer graphics as well as taxing adversary games. The silicon chip will bring about a still greater revolution. One expert says that in the future children will be communicating around the world through computer games. 81 11 26c

1981 12 10

There has been a massive response to the first children's Christmas science lectures in Cambridge. Pupils from Coton school were so determined to attend that they walked a mile to the Cavendish Laboratory. Other schools organised coaches and cars so their children could attend the demonstrations on 'Light and Colour', showing that science is an exciting subject worthy of pursuit. 81 12 10

1982 03 12

The Headmaster of Cambridge Manor School was forced to close his school at lunchtime after pupils went on the rampage. Children set fire to rubbish at the back of a building, smashed a door and set off a fire alarm. The trouble came on the first day of a teachers' work-to-rule which cut mealtime supervision to a minimum leaving the head with only four elderly dinner ladies for help. 82 03 12

1982 06 01

The lights went up for the last time on the ABC Minors Matinee at the Victoria Cinema, Cambridge. The final credits brought to an end an institution which has won a place in the hearts of thousands of children. No more will Keith Kendall and his part-time cleaner colleagues sneak into the lavatories to catch some 12-year-olds having a crafty cigarette. Sid Perkiss, who has manned the box office, remembers when two or three hundred children packed the cinema. Now it has been killed by the one-eyed villain, television. 82 06 01

1983 04 23

Cambridge doctors are grappling with a mystery illness which has affected local children and may be connected with a worldwide epidemic which killed 500,000 people between 1917 and 1928. The disease, called encephalitis lethargica, produces depression and behavioural problems following flu-like virus disorders. Ten children have been seen by specialists, one is still in hospital after a year. Doctors do not know the cause or the cure. But they do not want to cause undue alarm. 83 04 23 p1

1983 06 01

The Roger Ascham School for handicapped children in Cambridge, which the County Council threatened to close down, is likely to remain open after all. Massive opposition was mounted by parents. A report recommends that a unit for physically handicapped primary age children should be constructed. But they remain convinced that in the long term special units for handicapped children should be attached to other schools in a bid to integrate them with the others. 83 06 01 p10

1983 09 19

Mentally handicapped children are the latest casualties of the NHS cash crisis in Cambridge which has already closed the head injuries unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Beds at the Ida Darwin Hospital at Fulbourn will be withdrawn when nurses fall sick and vacancies will be unfilled because of cash cuts. The crisis at the 238-bed hospital is made worse because even with a shortage of nurses, the nursing budget is overspent so no new nurses can be taken on. 83 09 19 p1

1983 10 22

The Rosie, Cambridge's much-awaited maternity hospital, is Liz Earl's baby. The top midwife in the area, she has been involved in its planning right from the outset. No sooner had it opened than Miss Earl had the satisfaction of delivering a baby herself, the new hospital's second arrival. The Rosie has all the 'high-tech' that could be needed – two operating theatres, an improved monitoring room and new equipment - but the general atmosphere is as comfortable and homely as it can be with bright curtains and attractive play areas for older children. 83 10 22 p12

1986 09 21

'Thirty Three' is a new walk-in centre for young people funded by Save The Children. Based in Clarendon Street the confidential service has voluntary counsellors who will listen to youngsters' fears on any aspect of life including difficulties with parents or boy friends, anorexia or abortion. They will offer no criticism and never pass judgement but instead offer positive help. College students have their own counselling services, but there is nothing comparable for other 86 09 21a

1987 01 08

Youngsters were given a 40-minute version of the history of the world by the chairman of the Cambridge Holiday Lectures, Dr Ronald Grey. It was one of eight lectures for schoolchildren during the Christmas holidays and featured items from Cambridge University's ten museums, from the dinosaur to the Ancient Greeks and Christianity. Another presentation was given by Dr Mary Archer who spoke on the future of solar energy 87 01 08

1987 05 23

Fifty year ago, as the Spanish Civil War raged about her, a Basque mother who had already lost her husband in the bitter fighting, put five children on a ship leaving for England. Today her two sons still live in Cambridge. Tony and Joe Gallego were amongst 29 children housed at Pampisford Vicarage, which was turned into a hostel. Later they moved to Salisbury Villas. Their sisters were scattered, going to join families in different parts of the country. It was to be ten years before their mother saw any of them again. 87 04 02a
Cambridge's Lady Adrian School for children with learning difficulties has been given a prestigious Schools Curriculum Award in recognition of their important role in the community. Their children are achieving higher academic results, taking top prizes in national competitions and have much greater confidence in themselves. They take part in lessons at mainstream schools and help out at crèches, old people's homes and other special schools. One pupil has won a top prize in a poetry competition. 87 06 23a

1987 09 11

For over 60 years the Roger Ascham School served the needs of children. In the early days there were 120 pupils some with physical ailments. Others, kept rigidly separate, were backward and retarded. In recent years it was a vigorous, innovative school mainly for the physically multi-handicapped. The largest group were cerebral palsied children followed by spina bifida and a small number of those with muscular dystrophy and the emotionally fragile. It built a reputation for catering for the bright and more slow-learning pupil so they could succeed beyond expectations in spite of their physical disabilities. 87 09 11

1987 11 05

The average teenager smokes, drinks and spends up to £10 a week on records, clothes and going to discos, a new survey of schoolchildren reveals. They seek romance early, with about a third having a steady boy or girl friend by the age of 11. The majority spend one to three hours a night watching television while most 16-year-olds drink alcohol at least once a week and two-thirds have taken up smoking. Pocket money ranges from between £1-£3 for 11-13 year-olds with older teenagers getting up to £10 87 11 05

1988 01 27

Joice Taylor of Girton comes from an academic family. She has organised the Cambridge Lectures for young people which have run each Christmas at the University Engineering Department from 1963. Under the chairman, Dr Ronald Gray, the lectures by experts in their field cover topics such as spiders, snakes and scorpions, how the weather is forecast, a talk by Mary Archer about solar energy [and even some by a young Mike Petty]. 88 01 27

1988 02 24

Parkside Community College has been fighting officialdom since it opened 75 years ago. In 1913 the school faced the might of the British class system when many saw no reason why working class children should be educated 'above their station'. At the opening even the Mayor expressed doubts and a writer to the CDN urged that children of the working classes should be taught just the three Rs since roadsweepers, farm labourers and domestic servants would always be needed. Those who wished it could learn a trade later. Now it is celebrating its achievements. 88 02 24a

1988 11 26

Cambridge has nearly double the national average number of children in care, a shock report has revealed. One in every 100 children is either in foster care or in special homes, hostels or lodging. This is three times as high as surrounding districts and twice as high as Huntingdon. But a shake-up of policy will see cash moved away to preventative care 88 11 26

1989 03 13

The Howard Mallett youth club opened in March 1968 and five weeks of birthday celebrations have included two revival nights featuring 50s/60s & 70s music and a party for children. There are plans to extend the centre which has a sports hall, two training gyms, three split-level multi-activity areas, meeting rooms and canteen. But Doris Mansfield who has fed thousands of youngsters since the club started life as a 17-plus drop-in centre is retiring. 89 03 13a

1989 04 04

Crèches for children of working mothers – feature – 89 04 04a

1989 08 01

Diana, Princess of Wales, made a dream come true when she opened the doors of the Cambridge Children's Hospice at Milton. The caring princess, wearing a stunning red two-piece suit was welcomed by Canon Fred Kilner and matron Sue Potter who came up with the whole idea. She touched the hearts of hospice staff when she met four critically-ill children and brought tears of joy and smiles to the faces of the sick children and their parents. 89 08 01

1990 01 12

Cambridge Holiday Lectures for children, based on the Royal Institution Lectures, have been organised by Joice Taylor for 17 years and have proved most popular. They feature speakers on eight different subjects, each of whom waives any fees. Pupils come because intelligent young people are eager to widen their horizons and learn about things outside their present-day curriculum. This is infinitely more satisfying than roaming around aimlessly in the holidays. It is fully approved by the Local Education Authority funded solely from schools, PTAs and individual parents - 90 01 12a